

Trabajo Fin de Grado

TRANSLATION ON CONTROVERSIAL NEWS:
uses of translation techniques and the influence of
tribalisation in news dealing with Gibraltar

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El aumento del volumen de traducciones en prensa a lo largo de los últimos años y la influencia que esta ejerce en el desarrollo de la sociedad contemporánea confirma la necesidad de investigar el proceso de traducción periodística, especialmente en noticias que presentan puntos cultural y políticamente controvertidos. En este trabajo de fin de grado se analizarán las principales técnicas de traducción de *El País* para su versión inglesa *El País in English* de artículos que tratan sobre el 'conflicto' de Gibraltar. Además se establecerá una relación entre algunos usos de las técnicas de traducción y la tribalización.

The increase in journalistic translation during the last years and the influence that translation exerts over contemporary societies justify the importance of investigating the process of journalistic translation, especially if the news to translate deal with controversial issues. In this dissertation I analyse the translation techniques which the Spanish newspaper *El País* uses in the translation of news about the 'conflict' of Gibraltar, published afterwards in *El País English Edition*. I also establish a relation between some uses of translation techniques and *tribalisation*.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present dissertation analyses how the process of journalistic translation is carried out when the piece of news deals with controversial or culturally sensible issues.

The rationale behind this subject choice is the growing interest in news translation nowadays. Translation is closely related to globalization and the development of societies, as it is the tool which enables intercultural communication. Yet, some scholars, such as Venuti (1995), argue that in a globalised world, translation may fade away minority cultures in favour of extended uses and customs proposed by leading cultures. Therefore, translation can be seen as a double-edge sword. It may help to the development of contemporary societies or it may blur the differences amongst them.

If we take into consideration the digital revolution which started in the 80s, we can appreciate that our need for information is increasingly growing. When something happens anywhere in the world, people expect to read it on their phones, tablets or electronic devices in a matter of minutes, as information will spread across social media like a virus. It is there that translation and the world of journalism blend. Translation is pivotal, as it brings global information closer to us, but it also frames different perspectives of this information so that it adapts to different cultures. As translation adapts news to other cultures without the need to know a new language, access to information becomes equalitarian for all cultures, regardless of the language they speak.

Following Venuti's idea (1995) and given the increasing volume of journalistic translations, it seems important to explore the constraints which shape journalistic translation and the techniques which are used in order to adapt a piece of news to a different culture. The present dissertation focuses on the translation of texts from the Spanish daily *El País* to its English version in the online edition of the newspaper.

The Spanish press is one of the main consumers of translation around the world, the total volume of translations included amongst its publications already amounting to 12, 61% back in 1999 (González Rodríguez, 1999, in Hernández Guerrero, 2008). Even if this study has a narrow scope, as it focuses only on one broadsheet, its data serve as a starting point to assess the importance of translation in the Spanish press, assuming that the percentage of translations would be higher nowadays.

News translations in Spain is not carried out by translators, but rather by journalists, with some exceptions, and they are not credited for their translations. This invisibility of the translator, together with the lack of information about the actual occurrence of translation carried out within each institution, makes it difficult to gather more precise data about the volume of translation in the Spanish press (Hernández Guerrero, 2008; 2011).

Even if the volume of journalistic translation is high both in Spain and around the world and its influence in the development of contemporary societies may be extensive, it is noticeable that the study of journalistic translation does not seem to have generated the interest that could be expected (Hernández Guerrero, 2006). It is in the last decades when the study of journalistic translation has boomed as a discipline closely interrelated with globalisation (Bielsa and Bassnett, 2009).

The difficulty of journalistic translation lies in its constraints. This process of translation and adaptation of a piece of news for a different readership is not exempt from obligations, as it is bound to follow a given editorial line. Therefore, up to the constraints to which general translation is subjected, e.g. transmitting information and connotations to a different culture, whose language conventions differ from the source text's, journalistic translation adds new factors such as the lack of time to translate, the

presumed ideology of the reader or the political orientation of the media institution (Hernández Guerrero, 2006).

As a consequence, a combined process of translation and edition takes place whilst adapting a text for a new audience. Stetting (1989) terms this process *transediting*, to highlight that some changes regarding content are necessary in order to get a culturally adapted translation. After that, other scholars have tried to establish a further division, distinguishing between the necessary changes in order to make global news into national news, namely *localisation* (Orengo, 2005), and the changes which correspond to ideological questions, known as *tribalisation* (Orengo, 2005).

Thus, given the difficulty of journalistic translation, the present dissertation carries out an analysis of the main techniques used to translate news from Spanish into English and the effect that *localisation* and *tribalisation* may have in translation. Furthermore, this dissertation also explores how these techniques are put to use in the translation of controversial issues, in our case, news about Gibraltar.

The analysis focuses on Gibraltar news due to the controversy which this issue has aroused over the years. The media may either adopt a pro-Spanish point of view (henceforth P.O.V) in the treatment of the news, backing up the idea that Gibraltar is or should be part of Spain, or a pro-Gibraltarian P.O.V, considering Gibraltar a British Overseas Territory. Each of these perspectives has culturally and politically different ideas which may get the translator into trouble. As an example, *El País English Edition's* last printed edition, *So long*, pinpoints the importance of calling Gibraltar "a colony" in order not to be "spiked" by *EP* (Badcock, 2011).

Therefore, this dissertation aims to show, first of all, which techniques are used by the translators when solving problems that emerge in the process of translation.

Secondly, it also aims to unveil the main points which may be of cultural conflict or controversy. Finally, it assesses the role of *tribalisation* and *transediting* in the translation of controversial issues.

The data: El País and El País English Edition

For the analysis ten newspaper articles in Spanish, from the Spanish broadsheet *El País* (henceforth *EP*), and their translations into English, published in *El País English Edition* (henceforth *EPEE*), have been compared. These pieces of news deal with news related to Gibraltar and have been published over the last 3 years (from 29th July 2014 to 15th May 2016).

The corpus comprises the following texts:

Source Texts (henceforth STs) (See Appendix 1):

1. "España agilizará el cruce de La Verja por los trabajadores fronterizos" (*EP1* 29th July 2014)
2. "La UE perdió 700 millones de euros en cuatro años con el tabaco en Gibraltar" (*EP2* 13th August 2014)
3. "Gibraltar, la 'guerra de Margallo'" (*EP3* 21st August 2014)
4. "Gibraltar, en el mapa del fútbol" (*EP4* 7th September 2014)
5. "España cerrará la sede del Instituto Cervantes en Gibraltar" (*EP5* 11th February 2015)
6. "30 mafias dan trabajo en La Línea" (*EP6* 21st March 2015)
7. "¿Referéndum sobre la UE en Gibraltar? No, thanks" (*EP7* 23rd June 2015)
8. "Gibraltar revisará sus planes ecológicos tras el expediente de la UE" (*EP8* 4th August 2015)

9. "El socialista Picardo arrasa en las elecciones de Gibraltar" (*EP9* 27th November 2015)
10. "España no da permiso de paso al vuelo a Gibraltar de un ministro británico" (*EP10* 15th May 2016)

Target Texts (henceforth TTs) (See Appendix 2)

1. "Spain to give workers fast-track access across Gibraltar border" (*EPEE1* 30th July 2014)
2. "Gibraltar tobacco smuggling cost EU €700m in tax revenue over four years" (*EPEE2* 14th August 2014)
3. "Gibraltar: The ongoing confrontation" (*EPEE3* 22nd August 2014)
4. "Gibraltar takes its place on the world soccer map" (*EPEE4* 8th September 2014)
5. "Spain to close Cervantes Institute branch in Gibraltar" (*EPEE5* 12th February 2015)
6. "Spanish police crack down on Gibraltar cigarette smugglers" (*EPEE6* 26th March 2015)
7. "A Brexit? Why Gibraltar says no thanks" (*EPEE7* 23rd June 2015)
8. "Gibraltar pledges to review ecological codes after EC opens enquiry" (*EPEE8* 5th August 2015)
9. "Fabian Picardo re-elected as Gibraltar chief minister by a landslide" (*EPEE9* 27th November 2015)
10. "UK minister on flight to Gibraltar denied access to Spanish airspace" (*EPEE10* 16th May 2016)

According to the General Media Survey (AIMC, Estudio General de Medios, 2016), *El País* is the newspaper with the highest circulation in Spain. Founded in 1976, it defines itself as a good quality broadsheet, advocate of a pluralist democracy and with a centre-left political stand (Voltmer, 2006). Its version in English is the result of a collaboration between *The International Herald Tribune* and several broadsheets, including *EP*, to publish a weekly or daily supplement. *El País English Edition (EPEE)* appeared in 2001 as a supplement covering eight pages, from Monday to Saturday, to be published in Spain and Portugal. It has eventually been reduced to the online version.

El País English Edition has three main restrictions (Frías, 2005): it has to remain faithful to the *EP*'s editorial line; it cannot deal with international news and it cannot publish its contents before *EP*. Therefore, the main sources of *EPEE*'s texts are news articles obtained from *EP*. The translation of these news items is carried out by a team of journalists from America, Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland and Spain, whose names are never mentioned. The translations bear the name of the journalist who wrote the article in Spanish.

Theoretical Framework

For the purpose of the analysis, a product-oriented translation approach is followed. This approach, whose main representatives are Vinay & Darbelnet (1958), Vázquez Ayora (1977) and Newmark (1995), analyse the process which takes place during the conversion of a text into another language. The present study takes this approach and draws on Hurtado Albir's classification of translation techniques (2001).

Hurtado Albir's definition of technique focuses on its functionality, that is, it does not intend to assess the adequacy or correctness of its use, as these factors depend on a given context:

The technique is a result that corresponds to a translator's choice. Its validity is bounded to matters derived from context, from the intended purpose of the translation, from the readers' expectations, etc. [...] We can only evaluate a translation technique in a specific translation situation. Therefore, we define translation technique as a procedure to attain equivalence, which is visible in the translation result. This procedure is generally verbal (Hurtado Albir, 2001: 268, my translation).

Hurtado Albir (2001) classifies 18 different types of techniques to identify and characterise the results of equivalence with respect to the source text (Hurtado Albir, 2001: 257): Adaptation, linguistic amplification, amplification, calque, compensation, linguistic compression, discursive creation, description, elision, coined equivalent, generalisation, modulation, particularisation, borrowing, substitution, word-for-word translation, transposition and variation.

In journalistic translation, however, Hernández Guerrero (2006) identifies three different functions of amplification: actualisation of information, that is, including in the translation some data which may have appeared after the publication of the source text; explanation of information, which means adding some relevant data in order to facilitate comprehension; and contextualisation of information, whose aim is to “bring information up to date, contextualise information and adapt it to the reader’s situation” (Hernández Guerrero, 2006: 132, my translation).

Moreover, TTs usually have less space than their STs and need to be reframed for a new audience. As a consequence, the versions published in *EPEE* are usually shortened, selecting and translating those paragraphs whose content seems to be more relevant for the new readership (Vella Ramírez and Martínez López, 2012).

Regarding the changes mentioned earlier, several scholars, including Orengo (2005), Holland (2006) or Cheesmann and Nohl (2011), refer to the concept of

transediting, explained earlier. Moreover, Cheesmann and Nohl (2011) identify a second method of restructuring news articles. Referred to as *gatekeeping*, it concerns the selection of information which is going to be published and its arrangement. These two concepts complement each other, *gatekeeping* as a process which takes place before translation, and *transediting* as a process which takes place *during* translation.

Regarding *transediting* as a specific form of adaptation, Stetting (1989) differentiates between ‘cultural’ (semantic changes necessary because the needs and conventions of the target culture) and ‘situational’ adaptation (function of the translated text in its new social context)’. Yet, this recontextualisation may also be "associated with issues of voice, representation, institutional authority and ideology" (Kang, 2007, in Schäffner, 2012). It is in this case when the concepts of *localisation* and *tribalisation* apply, making an impact on translation.

Tribalisation, relates to conscious linguistic changes. It is a form of "linguistic resistance" (Schaffner, 2000 in Orengo, 2005: 173) by which "a text is translated and in such a way that the reader's ideological identity and sense of political affiliation are maintained and reinforced" (Orengo, 2005, 179). That is, the text is adapted in order to guide or reinforce the values of a community of readers who are supposed to share the same socio-cultural or political principles.

In the following section a description of the main results of the analysis is carried out. This analysis is composed of two sub-sections. The first sub-section analyses translation techniques in journalistic texts, classifying techniques into different groups and explaining their main functions and effects in the corpus. The second sub-section links the use of translation techniques to *tribalisation* and will relate the concepts explained previously to the uses of techniques which seem to be less consistent with the STs. The analysis will be followed by a section which summarises the main

findings of this dissertation. The texts that comprise the corpus of this study are reproduced in two Appendixes, after the bibliographical references. Appendix 1 contains the STs in Spanish, labelled *EP* and the identification number in chronological order, followed by the date of publication, e.g. EP1 29th July 2014. Appendix 2 contains the TTs in English, labelled as *EPEE* and identification the number in chronological order, followed by the date of publication, e.g EPEE1 30th July 2014.

2. ANALYSIS

This analysis comprises two sub-sections, which deal with translation techniques in journalistic texts and with the use of translation techniques in relation with *tribalisation*. Fragments of the source texts, henceforth ST, have been compared with their translations in the target text, henceforth TT, in order to exemplify the main uses in press translation, dealing with Gibraltar, of Hurtado Albir's (2001) translation techniques.

2.1. Translation techniques in journalistic texts

In order to provide an overall understanding of the procedures which take place during translation, I have classified the most frequent techniques, namely amplification, elision, linguistic amplification and compression, modulation, compensation and transposition, into three different groups corresponding to the main effect that they produce in the translation: addition or deletion of information in relation to the ST, modification of the ST's structure or variation in tone with regards to the ST. These groups are: addition and deletion of information, text reorganisation and tone change.

2.1.1. Techniques of addition and deletion

Four techniques have been included in this group. These are a) amplification, b) linguistic amplification, c) elision and d) linguistic compression.

a) Amplification

Amplification refers to the addition of information which is not included in the ST. Some scholars, including Hernández Guerrero (2006), argue that this is the translation technique par excellence in press translation, given that the new communicative framework is delimited by the new receptor and, hence, the translation of news

belonging to a cultural or linguistic background different from the reader's requires a higher degree of explanation.

Amplification has been applied either through short explanatory appositions or through long paragraphs, which usually appear at the end of the TT. In the corpus, it is mainly used for two reasons, either to clarify certain cultural or geographical aspects of the ST or to increase the knowledge of the reader about certain international affairs.

Shorter amplifications tend to have two different uses. Firstly, they explain difficult concepts, such as "bunkering", which the target audience, henceforth TA, might not know:

ST: Bruselas [...] exigió que se adoptaran medidas de protección del ecosistema marino, lo que España ha hecho prohibiendo el búnkering [...]. (*EP8* 4th August 2015)

TT: Brussels accepted these designations but demanded that measures be adopted to protect the marine ecosystems. [...] Spain has prohibited "bunkering"-offshore refueling of ships in the open waters- [...] (*EPEE8* 5th August 2015)

Amplification also provides an extended geographical denomination of places which local readership would easily locate but not the TA. In the following example we see how the explanatory apposition is used to give a broader geographical location of La Línea, a city easy to locate for a Spanish readership, but not for an international audience:

ST: "Ya me hubiera gustado jugar en La Línea, pero la política no ha querido". (*EP4* 7th September 2014)

TT: "I would have liked to see them play in La Línea [the Spanish town that sits in the border with Gibraltar] but politics did not allow it". (*EPEE4* 8th September 2014)

Longer paragraphs are preferred when explaining political issues; they are amplifications of missing information in the ST and tend to appear as a closure of the article, explaining the historical reasons of the issue of Gibraltar or the development of skirmishes, as the following paragraph, which does not appear in the ST:

TT: Spain and Gibraltar have been at loggerheads over the issues of smuggling and fishing over the last year, with the Spanish authorities carrying out exhaustive border checks that have created long delays at the crossing. The Gibraltarian authorities have complained about the measures to Brussels, which has sent inspectors to the area. (*EPEE2* 14th August 2014)

Full-paragraph amplifications may also take place in-text. In some cases, their aim seems to explain legal concepts which may hamper the comprehension of the TTs. In the following example, amplification helps to explain a political provision which may be difficult to understand for the TA and which is one of the core concepts of the article:

ST: [...] Tras la apertura de un proceso de infracción por parte de la Comisión Europea por incumplimiento de la directiva de protección mediambiental Hábitats [sic].

En respuesta a la información de El PAÍS, [...], el Gobierno gibraltareño difundió este martes un comunicado [...] (*EP8* 4th August 2015)

TT: [...] after the European Commission said it will investigate [...] for not compliance of the European Union's Habitats Directive.

The Habitats Directive is one of Europe's major conservation policies, and it is aimed at protecting certain endangered sites – as well as more 1,000 plants and animals species - in member countries. More than 200 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated across the continent.

The Gibraltar government confirmed that the review will take place in a statement issued [...]. (*EPEE8* 5th August 2015)

b) Linguistic amplification

Linguistic amplification is not nearly as preferred as amplification but it must be said that it fulfils a different function. On the one hand, the function of amplification is adding information to the TT which is not included in the ST, hence we add new data. On the other hand, the main effect of linguistic amplification is the creation of longer fragments by means of rewriting and it does not necessarily involve the addition of new information. As a consequence, linguistic amplification in the corpus usually concerns those sentences needing some special grammatical contextualisation in the target language (henceforth TL), which is not included in the ST or which is dispensable in the source language (henceforth SL). The rewriting of the fragments results in a clearer translation that does not leave room for grammatical misunderstandings which may lead to a mistaken interpretation:

ST: Una carta que [...] había dirigido a su antecesor, con quien quiera [sic] un acuerdo sobre el futuro de su colonia y otra que se niegue a hablar, como se comprometió a hacer en el Proceso de Bruselas (1984). (*EP3* 21st August 2014)

TT: [In the letter] The Spanish minister stated that the United Kingdom could consult with anyone it liked regarding the future of its territory, but that it

could not refuse to talk following its commitment to do so at the 1984

Brussels Process. (*EPEE3* 22nd August 2014)

In this example the content is essentially the same, but the ST has been reworded in a clearer way, as it proves challenging to grasp the meaning in the ST fragment, even for native Spanish speakers.

c) Elision

Elision involves cutting out fragments from the ST. I have found three main reasons for it: first of all, because the information lacks interest for the presumed TA; secondly, because space constraints request for an abridged version and, finally, because, given the controversy of the Gibraltar issue, some parts of the ST may be deemed controversial or allegedly biased for the TA. The length of the extracts elided varies from one single word to entire paragraphs.

Regarding longer elisions, intra-textual secondary stories seem to be the most affected. These small explanatory texts, which bear no direct relation with the main text, but that show an example of the issue the article is dealing with, account for the longest elisions. Out of the three intra-textual secondary stories appearing in the corpus, one has been fully erased (*EP7* 23rd June 2015) and the other two show important elisions which account for a maximum of 44% the total word-count (*EPEE6* 26th March 2015).

Greater elisions do also affect final paragraphs. The main reason for it seems to be space-constraints, hence, information needs to be either compressed or elided (Hernández Guerrero, 2006). As a consequence, paragraphs at the end of the text not including core information are wiped out, as in the following example, which shows one of the four paragraphs elided in the TT:

ST: (*second paragraph out of six*) La jornada electoral ha estado marcada por la bajada de la participación. [...] Estas cifras implican una caída de casi 12

puntos respecto a los comicios de 2011, cuando Picardo desbancó al entonces ministro principal, Peter Caruana, tras 15 años en el Gobierno. [...]
(*third paragraph out of six*) Tras el recuento de los votos, que se ha prolongado durante más de ocho horas y ha acabado sobre las siete y media de la mañana de este viernes [...] (EP9 27th November 2015)

TT: (*final paragraph*) The ballot was marked by a low voter turnout of 70% out of 23,278 eligible voters, nearly a 12-point drop from 2011, when Picardo ended then-GSD leader Peter Caruana's 15-year tenure as chief minister.
(EPEE9 27th November 2015)

Nevertheless, full-paragraph elision also takes place within the text, even if it happens more often with final paragraphs, and it usually concerns those paragraphs with a marked local interest, e.g. paragraphs which refer to measures applied only to locals. In the following example we can see that a paragraph describing the Spanish cities which will take advantage of a certain measure has been elided from the TT, as it is of no use for an international audience, given that they cannot benefit from the measure and that the cities mentioned are not well-known around the world:

ST: [...] la medida beneficiará tanto a los españoles [...] como a los llanitos que lo hacen en el Campo de Gibraltar. [...]

Tendrán derecho a esta tarjeta quienes trabajen en Gibraltar y residan en los municipios de La Línea de la Concepción, Algeciras, San Roque [...] Las autorizaciones serán válidas por un máximo de un año, prorrogable.

El secretario de estado para la UE [...] ha subrayado que España está obligada a evitar el contrabando con Gibraltar. (EPI 29th July 2014)

TT: Spain is also offering fast-lane access to Gibraltarians who work in Spain, although in practice these are much fewer.

[...]

Spanish authorities say that border checks are necessary to deal with increased smuggling of tobacco and other products from Gibraltar into Spain. (*EPEEI* 30th July 2014)

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that in those cases where a paragraph with a marked local interest is elided, elision and amplification go hand-in-hand. Elided paragraphs are, in many cases, replaced by amplifications which give an insight of the Gibraltar conflict and its development. Taking the fragments mentioned a few lines above (*EPI* 29th July 2014 and *EPEEI* 30th July 2014), we soon realise that the slot left by the paragraph elided is filled with a new paragraph complaining about the delays at the border:

TT: Traffic jams at the border between the Rock and the town of La Línea de la Concepción on the Spanish side have been the subject of dispute between Spain and Britain. Around 30,000 people cross the border each day, and spend between 60 and 90 minutes waiting in line (*EPEEI* 30th July 2014)

Shorter elisions concentrate on four different aspects: local place names and data about local places; names related to Spanish official institutions with no equivalent in the TL; untranslatable puns and 'satellite' data, e.g. tobacco brands or highly detailed numbers. A fifth category of elision, related to those elisions which arise from *tribalisation*, will be addressed in a special section.

Regarding elision of place names and data about local places we can take the following text as an example. Here we can see that the geographical location provided is not suitable for an international audience, given that it is too specific even for a Spanish audience. ST's location seems to have been created for an Andalusian TA, therefore,

there is no point in translating it as it is not going to be of any help locating the Estádio Algarve for a distant audience:

ST: A 80 kilómetros de la frontera con España, que marca el río Guadiana en Ayamonte, se encuentra el estadio Algarve de Faro. (*EP4* 7th September 2014)

TT: Eighty kilometers across the Spanish border stands the Estádio Algarve in Faro. (*EPEE4* 8th September 2014)

Furthermore, the following example shows the elision of an institutional name which, given its specificity, is unlikely to have an equivalent in the target language (TL):

ST: El BOE publicó el martes una resolución del Departamento de Aduanas e Impuestos Especiales de la Agencia Estatal de Administración Tributaria por el [sic] que se crea un documento [...]. (*EPI* 29th July 2014)

TT: On Tuesday, the Official Gazette published a decision to create a special document [...]. (*EPEE1* 30th July 2014)

With regards to untranslatable puns, in the following example we can see how the TT has got rid of the verse of the famous Spanish song, which cannot be translated without losing part of its connotations (that singing helps people cheer up). Given that Spain has tried for many years to prevent Gibraltar's national football team from entering international championships, an inaccurate translation, or the fact that the TA may not be aware of the meaning of the song, may lead the text to be misunderstood for a mockery. Elision seems, in this case, the best option:

ST: Luego se desplomó y Lewandowski, delantero del Bayern, hizo cuatro goles. Se oyó el "canta y no llores". (*EP4* 7th September 2014)

TT: It then collapsed in the second half with Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski scoring four. (*EPEE4* 8th September 2014)

Finally, regarding satellite data, the following example shows that the TT got rid of the names of cigarette brands by generalising it to "cigarettes" and elided the explanatory apposition, as the main interest of the article is not to show the brands they smuggle but the fact that smuggling is a way of living in the Spanish cities close to Gibraltar:

ST: Casado y con un hijo de 14 años que ya conducía sin carné y llevaba cajas de Ducal y American Legend - las marcas que más almacenan- a otras provincias. (*EP6* 21st March 2015)

TT: Police say El Lolo's 14-year-old son is already an experienced driver and has been used to deliver cigarettes to other provinces. (*EPEE6* 26nd March 2015)

d) Linguistic compression

Linguistic compression focuses on sentence construction; it consists in paraphrasing a given sentence, paragraph or text in a way which maintains the essential meaning of the fragment but reduces the number of words. Linguistic compression usually intertwines with elision in journalistic translation. These two techniques, together with linguistic amplification and, specially, with amplification, provide the translator with the functions of an editor.

It can be seen in the translations that elision and linguistic compression complement each other in order to create shortened versions of the articles. Elision erases unneeded information while linguistic compression condenses the remaining information in shorter paragraphs.

In this example we can see how elision (in *italics*) and linguistic compression (underlined) combine in order to gather the main data from the ST into an abridged version in the TT:

ST: *El socialista Fabian Picardo, candidato de la coalición GSLP-GLP, ha ganado las elecciones celebradas este jueves en el Peñón. La formación del actual ministro principal, que revalida su cargo para otros cuatro años, ha arrasado con el 68,03% de los votos, según los datos facilitados este viernes por el Parlamento de la colonia británica. El partido del líder de la oposición, Daniel Feetham, del GSD de centro-derecha, solo ha recabado el 31,37% de los apoyos.* (EP9 27th November 2015)

TT: The candidate for the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party-Liberal Party of Gibraltar alliance (GSLP-GLP) trumped the opposition with 68.03% of the vote in elections held on Thursday. Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD) attracted 31.37% support. (EPEE9 27th November 2015)

2.1.2. Text reorganisation

Text reorganisation relates to changes regarding the structure of the ST. Reorganisation includes both the order of the paragraphs of the text and the internal structure of paragraphs and sentences. I have found two techniques while analysing the corpus which act as reorganisers of the ST. These are a) compensation and b) modulation.

a) Compensation

Compensation is one of the most important techniques in journalistic translation. It is not as frequent as addition and elision, but its use has a remarkable effect on the translations. Compensation includes a piece of information or a stylistic effect which has not been possible to translate in the same spot of the ST.

Two main aspects are prone to be subjected to compensation. The first one is data which may be considered ‘out of place’, given the surrounding content. In the corpus it is either added in a paragraph whose content is related, as it is the case of the

example 1, or given a paragraph for itself together with some amplifications, which contextualise the compensated information, as in example 2 below.

Example 1: ST: (*5th paragraph, related to the sinking of concrete blocks*): El Gobierno denunció ante la Comisión Europea esta medida, así como el *bunkering* –suministro de combustible desde gasolineras flotantes- y el relleno de las aguas costeras con arena. (EP3 21st August 2014)

TT: (*paragraph related to the sinking of concrete blocks*) [...] Spain denounced the practice before the European Commission, [...].

(*paragraph related to bunkering*) After years of complaints [...] the floating gas stations that ships from all over the world used to refuel cheaply are finally gone. (EPEE3 22nd August 2014)

The sentence compensated in example 1 had been included in the previous paragraph, which dealt with concrete blocks. The content made more sense in the paragraph in which it has been relocated, as it deals with the issue of bunkering. The sentence compensated is a clear definition of the concept.

In example 2, the creation of an ad-hoc paragraph to include the compensated sentence has been preferred. Some amplification was needed for contextualisation:

Example 2: ST: (*first paragraph*): España cerrará la sede en Gibraltar del Instituto Cervantes y, en su lugar, abrirá otra en Singapur. (EP5 11th February 2015)

TT: (*first paragraph*): Foreign Minister [...] announced the closing of the Cervantes institute in Gibraltar [...]

(*fifth paragraph*) In its place, Spain will now open a Cervantes institute in Singapore. The non-profit centers are located in 20 different places. (*EPEE5* 12th February 2015)

Leads in several articles tend to be replaced by explanatory sentences from the first paragraphs and vice-versa, as a way of compensating for a lack of information caused by a short headline. This is a consequence of the general change of tone or point of view of the articles, an aspect I will deal with in the following section. An example of compensation of a short headline can be seen in the following fragment. "Brexit", a concept which in 2015 might prove difficult for a non-EU readership has been introduced by means of a short sentence from the first paragraph in the ST. This sentence has been selected as lead in the TT:

ST: (*Headline*): ¿Referéndum sobre la UE en Gibraltar? No, thanks

(*Lead*): El Peñón tiembla ante las posibles repercusiones económicas y políticas de la consulta.

(*First paragraph*): [...] pero que también tiembla desde que Londres convocara un referéndum para decidir si siguen formando parte de la Unión Europea y en qué condiciones. (*EP7* 23rd June 2015)

TT: (*Headline*): A Brexit? Why Gibraltar says no thanks

(*Lead*): A UK referendum on European Union membership has sparked concerns on the Rock (*EPEE7* 23rd June 2015)

b) Modulation

This technique consists in a change in point of view, approach or thinking category in relation to the articulation of the original text (Hurtado and Molina, 2001, in Gil Bardají, 2008). This change may be either lexical or structural. In this section I will only

focus on structural modulation, given that, after analysing the corpus under study, lexical change seems to be more related to tone change, explained in the following section.

Leads are either amplified in order to adapt to the needs of the new readership, a phenomenon which has been explained above, or go through a major process of modulation, in which the whole P.O.V of the article has been changed. It is quite noticeable that, in most cases, this modulation serves to mitigate the tensions which may arise from their Spanish counterparts. In the following example, we can see how the first lead may be provocative for an English-speaking readership, given the different positions they hold towards the issue of Gibraltar. Additionally, it could be argued that the Spanish lead may not be suitable for an international readership, as it is quite cryptic and requires knowledge about the history of the issue:

ST: Exteriores quiere recuperar el terreno cedido en la reivindicación española
(*EP3* 21st August 2014)

TT: Spain and the Rock have taken many of their grievances to Brussels, with
uneven results for both (*EPEE3* 22nd August 2014)

Thus, by means of modulation, *EPEE* has globalised the lead by making it an explanation of the heading. This modulation makes it possible for an international readership to understand the main content of the article without predisposing to any ideology or belief in particular.

It is quite frequent, as well, to see sentence rearrangement. It consists in the frontalisation of an agent noun which makes the function of new subject, instead of having an abstract noun as subject. In this case modulation is complemented by the transposition of the abstract noun, which becomes a verb. This usually results in a change of P.O.V. as the action ceases to be impersonal:

ST [...] tras la apertura de un proceso de infracción por parte de la Comisión Europea por incumplimiento [...] (*EP8* 4th August 2015)

TT [...] after the European Commission said it will investigate Britain and the local government for non-compliance [...] (*EPEE8* 5th August 2015)

2.1.3. Tone change

I understand by tone change any variation in the degree of intensity of language transmitted by the TTs. It is realised by modulation and transposition. In the corpus, most of the articles show a general variation in tone, if compared with STs. The tone of the *EPEE* translations is, in general, allegedly more neutral and 'unbiased'.

Neutrality is achieved through the use of transposition in the conversion of direct speech into reported speech. Given that the political status of the Rock is a delicate issue, as Spain does not acknowledge Gibraltar's sovereignty, the words of the following example, uttered by the Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister, may seem harsh for an international audience and might become a source of conflict. The conversion of the sentence into reported speech gives distance towards the proposition in the TT and helps to reduce the strength of the political standpoint of the ST:

ST: "nadie crea un Instituto Cervantes en lo que considera que es territorio español" (*EP5* 11th February 2015)

TT: [...] saying it did not make sense having a centre promoting Spanish language and culture in an area that is considered "Spanish territory."
(*EPEE5* 12th February 2015)

Modulation makes target texts' style more restrained and direct. This technique helps to avoid anecdotal information, which characterises some of the Spanish texts, such as the following example:

ST: La llamaron Operación Poniente y se saldó con 18 registros y más de una veintena de arrestados, de los que Manolo Martínez Jiménez era uno de los cabecillas. Él controlaba al menos 20 personas en esa barriada pesquera que en sus tiempos trabajó el atún y que es tan antigua como el municipio al que pertenece, La Línea de la Concepción (Cádiz). (*EP6* 21st March 2015)

TT: Spanish police working on Operation Poniente also detained more than 20 people who allegedly worked for El Lolo and searched 18 premises in La Atunara, a rundown neighborhood of La Línea de la Concepción [...] (*EPEE6* 26th March 2015)

Modulation in TTs is also characterised by the use of hedging verbs, a technique that helps gain certain distance towards the proposition in the TT. Hedging is likely to take place in those texts in which information has not been confirmed or a decision is still pending, as in the following example, where the second conditional is used:

ST: "[...] Las autoridades Gibraltareñas confían en que el expediente se archivará sin que se llegue a presentar una denuncia [...]. (*EP8* 4th August 2015)

TT: [...] The Gibraltar government added that it was confident that EC would shelve the inquiry without having to file [...] (*EPEE8* 5th August 2015)

The use of replacement, by substituting words for softer 'synonyms' may help reduce the strength of a claim. In the following example, the replacement of 'proteger' for 'no longer apply' (instead of the equivalent 'protect') makes the claim of the ST less severe

as it does not imply the aggressiveness towards Spain which can be inferred from the quotation in the ST, made by Gibraltar's Chief Minister, who fears that Spain may close the border in the event of a Brexit as Gibraltar would no longer be part of Europe. With this replacement the translators do not make a stand for either Spanish or Gibraltar's position, hence impartiality favours TT's trustworthiness:

ST: "Los tratados nos protegen", declara el ministro principal. (*EP7* 23rd

June 2015)

TT: "Treaties would no longer apply" (*EPEE7* 23rd June 2015)

2.2. The role of *tribalisation* in journalistic translation: specific uses of techniques

The issue of Gibraltar carries a great deal of controversy and it is quite prone to cause friction. As a consequence, it has to be carefully addressed in order to maintain certain equivalence with the ST. However, some choices made in the translations seem, in some cases, to question this equivalence. Therefore, I deem necessary to focus on the secondary functions of techniques, functions related to *tribalisation*.

Regarding elision, I have noticed that data which may create a political conflict are usually cut out. It mainly affects the political status of Gibraltar. Conflictive terminology, such as "colonia" is elided¹ or replaced by other terms deemed adequate, such as in the following example:

ST: Fuentes diplomáticas españolas niegan que se tratase de una represalia por el viaje del secretario del Foreign Office a la colonia. (EP10 15th May 2016)

TT: Spanish diplomatic sources said that the decision to deny access was not in retaliation for the minister's visit. (EPEE10 16th May 2016)

The terming of Gibraltar 'a colony' has been elided in order to avoid triggering social or political unrest.

Sentences containing 'loaded' adjectives are likely to be elided if the article deals with decisions taken by Gibraltar which have not been as successful as intended, such as the debut of the Gibraltarian national football team:

ST: Jugar en Faro le cuesta a la federación del Peñón unos 300.000 euros por partido. El estadio Algarve resultaba algo fantasmagórico. (EP4 7th September 2014)

¹ Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory, that is, a dependent territory of the United Kingdom. Gibraltar sovereignty is a major point of contention in Anglo-Spanish relations

TT Playing in Faro costs the Gibraltar soccer federation 300.000 a game.

(*EPEE4* 8th September 2014)

Some sentences amplified include opinion words. In the following example, the TT makes an assessment of Spanish Foreign Minister's words, which is not present in the ST:

ST: El ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, José Manuel García-Margallo, ha justificado la clausura [...] (*EP5* 11th February 2015)

TT: Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo stirred up the diplomatic waters on Wednesday when he announced the closing of the Cervantes Institute in Gibraltar. (*EPEE5* 12th February 2015)

Amplifications help 'explicate' parts of the sentences which have not been made explicit in the ST. This explicitation seems to threaten impartiality as it apparently points the readership in favour of Gibraltar by adding words which have not been said in the ST. In this case, the addition of "to allow" to the words of the Spanish Foreign Minister suggest that he has exerted pressures in order to prevent Picardo from speaking in a conference. This claim is based in words which are not in the ST:

ST: Pero sí ha reconocido que les hizo saber que no le parecía "útil" que el embajador británico acreditado en Madrid presentase al señor Picardo [...] (*EP5* 11th February 2015)

TT: But he did acknowledge that he had let organizers know that he did not think it "useful" to allow the British ambassador [...] to introduce Picardo so he could deliver [...] (*EPEE5* 12th February 2015)

Reorganisation techniques, especially compensation, may act as focalisers, giving prominence to some fragments in the TTs. Some sentences in direct speech are

compensated without the contextualisation they have in the ST. As a consequence they may seem biased for a readership which supports Gibraltar sovereignty or show an image of Spain which does not correspond with the STs':

ST: (*second paragraph, context in bold*): "ningún español acepta el título de ministro principal [de Fabián Picardo]", que **deriva de una Constitución cuya validez no reconoce España**. (EP5 11th February 2015)

TT: (*stand-alone last sentence*): "There isn't one Spaniard who accepts the title of chief minister," García-Margallo told lawmakers. (EPEE5 12th February 2015)

The combination of modulation and transposition in the frontalisation of a subject different from the ST's may serve as a catalyst for opinion. This is related to the transmission of intentionality. If a sentence with a non-agentive subject in the ST is rearranged and we attribute the action to an active subject in the TT, the factor of intentionality, or whether an action has been done on purpose, comes into play. In the corpus, the non-agentive subject of the ST becomes the direct object of the TT and an agent is added as subject. In this case, by means of restructuring, the TT seems to imply that Spain has increased border checks intentionally as a form of retaliation for Gibraltar's decision to sink concrete blocks:

ST: [...] pero al vertido al mar de los bloques de hormigón siguió el endurecimiento de los controles en La Verja. (EP3 21st August 2014)

TT: [...] after Gibraltar sank the concrete blocks into the bay, Spanish authorities increased border checks significantly. (EPEE3 22nd August 2014)

Modulation in the corpus softens the tone and helps playing down conflictive aspects. This softening decreases the intensity of the ST, but seems to omit Spanish P.O.V. in the TT. Spain does not accept Gibraltar as a sovereign state and, as a consequence,

Spain has fought against the decision of allowing a Gibraltar national team to enrol competition on equal footing with the rest of European national teams. In this example, TT explains the debut of Gibraltar football national team from a Spanish P.O.V, the adjective "frío" is translated as "tepid" (that is, "not very warm", instead of "cold"), which appears to be a less negative 'equivalent' term:

ST: Un debut frío, con las gradas vacías [...] (*EP4* 7th September 2014)

TT: Something of a tepid debut, then, which was played out to an empty stadium [...] (*EPEE4* 8th September 2014)

To sum up, even if the translations appear to be more neutral and unbiased than the STs, they usually hide a deal of opinion which may easily go unnoticed for an audience not familiarised with the conflict of Gibraltar. The image that these translation choices show about both Spain and Gibraltar differ to a large extent from the image portrayed by the original texts in Spanish, and the new P.O.V of the TTs seems to show some inclination in favour of Gibraltar as a sovereign state.

Regarding the TTs readership profile, although the texts do not give many clues, some words like "soccer" (*EPEE4* 8th September 2015) and spellings like "neighborhood" (*EPEE6* 26th March 2015) show an American spelling. Together with the elision of data about Spain, e.g. place names, which globalise the text for an international readership and the amplification of data about the 'conflict' of Gibraltar may indicate that the TTs are targeted at a North American readership.

3. CONCLUSIONS

This dissertation has attempted to analyse the main techniques which are used in order to translate news articles from Spanish into English and their effects when the items to translate deal with culturally and politically sensible matters, such as, in our case, the issue of Gibraltar. In addition, it has also tried to show the relationship between some uses of translation techniques and *tribalisation* in those cases which show less equivalence with the ST, arguing that translation techniques can be used, in a way, to conceal or modify controversial information, depending on the expected readership.

In relation to the main findings, I have identified six techniques which stand out, either because of their frequency or because of the effect they have in the translations. Techniques ~~are~~ have been classified depending on whether they serve to add or delete information, to modify the structure of the ST or to modify the tone of the ST.

Addition and deletion techniques seem to focus on globalising the text so that an international audience may be able to understand the Gibraltar issue. Addition of relevant geographic details help locating the conflict and paragraphs explaining the development of the conflict during the last years give an insight into the present situation. In general, in the sample the TTs are shorter than STs. TTs avoid anecdotal information, and complex wording in favour of simple clauses. In addition, secondary and local Spanish data, with no clear interest for an international readership, are usually elided. Elision and linguistic compression combine to produce abridged versions of the STs, which summarise the main content.

Techniques which modify the textual structure seem to help relocating important information that, given elisions and amplifications, has not been possible to locate in the same place as the STs. There seems to be a preference for agentive nouns as subject, resulting in a combination of modulation and transposition to rearrange sentences in the

TT whose subject was a deverbal/deadjectival noun in the ST. In other words, an action which may imply consequences has to be carried out by either a person or a national/international entity. These variations shed some light on the importance of using the 'right' word, as one slip might bring political consequences.

All in all, TTs seem to show a more neutral, unbiased tone. Techniques that change the tone of the ST achieve this neutrality by substituting vocabulary which the TA may deem 'biased' for 'unbiased synonyms', or by hedging verbs to gain distance with respect to controversial propositions. Distance is also achieved through transposition from direct speech to reported speech, as this helps reduce the strength of the political standpoint of the ST. As a result, the TTs appear to be more objective and measured than the STs.

In relation to *tribalisation*, some TTs seem to call equivalence into question. Elision erases the Spanish notion of Gibraltar as 'a colony', which is controversial, and amplification is used to include opinions not expressed in the STs. Compensation relocates – in banners or stand-alone paragraphs – some direct-style sentences, but not the information that contextualises them, portraying an image of Spain which differs from the one portrayed by the STs. Finally, the fact that modulation acts as a neutralizer in the choice of lexis, it helps temper Spanish P.O.V. on Gibraltar's sovereignty.

To conclude, I would like to remark that a controversial issue is usually regarded from various perspectives and ideologies, hence, many versions of it may appear in different media. This dissertation has a narrow scope, as it has focused on a very particular version, which is the translation into English of articles from *El País*, and published in *El País English Edition*, and therefore, it should not be understood as a general statement of the translation techniques used in the translation into English of controversial matters.

Further research into the issue of Gibraltar and how it has been portrayed and translated in the media throughout the years would certainly enrich the investigative work on the translation of journalistic texts both with regard to the use of particular translation techniques and the effects of *tribalisation*.

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EP1-29th July 2014: "España agilizará el cruce de La Verja por los trabajadores fronterizos"

España agilizará el cruce de La Verja por los trabajadores fronterizos

Los 6.000 españoles empleados en Gibraltar dispondrán de una tarjeta especial

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [29 JUL 2014 - 20:05 CEST](#)



Colas para cruzar la frontera de Gibraltar. MARCOS MORENO

El Gobierno quiere evitar que las largas colas que se producen a la entrada y salida de Gibraltar, como consecuencia de los controles aduaneros a la busca de mercancías de contrabando, perjudiquen a los miles de españoles que trabajan en la colonia británica y diariamente tienen que cruzar La Verja.

El BOE publicó el martes una resolución del Departamento de Aduanas e Impuestos Especiales de la Agencia Estatal de Administración Tributaria por el que se crea un documento especial para los llamados “trabajadores fronterizos”. Los poseedores de esta tarjeta podrán cruzar por el llamado carril rojo, reservado a personas y vehículos que portan bienes de declaración obligatoria (ya que Gibraltar está fuera de la unión aduanera), en vez de hacerlo por el verde, por donde pasan quienes no transportan mercancías, pero con la diferencia de que su mera exhibición supondrá que no tienen nada que declarar. Se trata, en definitiva, de agilizar el tránsito de estos trabajadores permitiéndoles cruzar por el carril menos saturado y evitar así las colas.

El Gobierno ha tenido especial cuidado en evitar que se le pueda acusar de trato discriminatorio y, por eso, la medida beneficiará tanto a los españoles que trabajan en el Peñón como a los llanitos que lo hacen en el Campo de Gibraltar. En la práctica, no obstante, son muy pocos los gibraltareños que trabajan en España, mientras que unos 6.000 españoles (la quinta parte de las 30.000 personas que diariamente cruzan La Verja) lo hacen en la colonia británica.

El Gobierno gibraltareño "toma nota" de la medida adoptada por España

Tendrán derecho a esta tarjeta quienes trabajen en Gibraltar y residan en los municipios de La Línea de la Concepción, Algeciras, San Roque, Los Barrios y Castellar de la Frontera. Y viceversa. Para obtenerla, deberán aportar copia de su DNI o pasaporte, del contrato de trabajo y del documento de residencia. Los autónomos deberán aportar el alta en el régimen especial y los contratos que acrediten el servicio que prestan. Las autorizaciones serán válidas por un máximo de un año, prorrogable.

En agosto se iniciarán obras en el paso aduanero por 7,5 millones

El secretario de Estado para la UE, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, ha reconocido [las "molestias" que producen las colas](#), pero ha subrayado que España está obligada a evitar el contrabando con Gibraltar. [La Comisión Europea envió en septiembre pasado un equipo de inspectores que concluyó que España tiene derecho a hacer controles](#), pero emitió unas recomendaciones para agilizar el paso de La Verja. [A principios de julio, los inspectores regresaron para comprobar el cumplimiento de sus recomendaciones](#). En 15 días se iniciarán las obras de mejora en la parte española de La Verja, en las que está previsto invertir 7,5 millones y que deben concluir en mayo de 2015.

El Gobierno gibraltareño ha dicho que "toma nota" de la decisión adoptada por España y que la está estudiando "con sus asesores legales".

La UE perdió 700 millones de euros en cuatro años con el tabaco en Gibraltar

La fiscalía abre diligencias para investigar el informe de la OLAF que alertaba del blanqueo y el contrabando en la colonia inglesa

[Fernando J. Pérez](#)

Madrid [13 AGO 2014 - 18:41 CEST](#)

Las haciendas de la Unión Europea han dejado de ingresar entre 2010 y 2013 alrededor de 700 millones de euros con el contrabando de tabaco en Gibraltar. Así se desprende del informe que la Oficina Europea Antifraude (OLAF en sus siglas en inglés) ha remitido a los gobiernos de España y el Reino Unido y que estudia la Fiscalía de la Audiencia Nacional. Esta cifra tiene que ver, según fuentes del ministerio público, con los impuestos aduaneros que se han evadido con el tráfico ilegal de tabaco y con los impuestos indirectos que gravan la venta de tabaco en el circuito legal, cuyo comercio se resiente con la mercancía de contrabando.

La Fiscalía de la Audiencia Nacional ha abierto hoy diligencias informativas – procedimiento de investigación previa a la judicialización del caso-. Según fuentes del ministerio público, el informe, de más de 400 páginas en inglés, tiene un alto grado de detalle y cita sociedades concretas beneficiarias del contrabando de tabaco y el blanqueo de capitales.

Según Hacienda, la Verja concentró un 60% de las operaciones contra el contrabando de tabaco en toda España, si bien en estas operaciones se incautan pocas cantidades de cajetillas porque se trata de infracciones administrativas. Los datos de la Agencia Tributaria respecto a las cajetillas incautadas en el año 2013 indican que se incautaron un total de 10.354.655, de los cuales por infracciones administrativas lo fueron 3.587.841, un total de 1.958.418 en Andalucía y 1.370.115 en el Campo de Gibraltar, que incluye también la zona de Algeciras. Las grandes operaciones se efectúan sobre todo en zonas portuarias. Solo en una operación en el puerto de Algeciras en diciembre de 2012 se encontraron unos contenedores con 499.500 cajetillas en una partida que, supuestamente, correspondía a muebles de plástico.

El ministerio dirigido por Cristóbal Montoro advirtió el pasado lunes de que "el contrabando resulta plenamente controlado por organizaciones criminales que obtienen una importante financiación y que quedan amparados por la inacción del Gobierno gibraltareño, que conoce y permite la existencia de significativos volúmenes de importación de tabaco en una colonia de apenas 29.000 habitantes sin que se adopten medidas significativas para su control".

Gibraltar, la 'guerra de Margallo'

Exteriores quiere recuperar el terreno cedido en la reivindicación española

La UE pide a España controles selectivos y al Peñón tajar el contrabando

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [21 AGO 2014 - 20:38 CEST](#)



Colas de vehículos, este jueves en la aduana de Gibraltar. marcos moreno

Lo primero que hizo José Manuel García-Margallo (pariente del general que dio nombre a la Primera Guerra del Rif) cuando llegó al Ministerio de Exteriores fue contestar, con año y medio de retraso, una carta que el secretario del Foreign Office, William Hague, había dirigido a su antecesor, Miguel Ángel Moratinos. Margallo no podía dejar pasar que Hague dijera que Londres no discutiría la soberanía del Peñón sin el visto bueno de los gibraltareños. Una cosa, advertía el ministro, es que el Reino Unido consulte con quien quiera un acuerdo sobre el futuro de su colonia y otra que se niegue a hablar, como se comprometió a hacer en el Proceso de Bruselas (1984). No se sabe cómo se tomó el Foreign Office la tardía respuesta, pero a [Margallo](#) le daba igual: lo importante para él era fijar su posición, no ceder ni un milímetro y recuperar en lo posible el terreno perdido en la etapa de Zapatero.

Desde entonces, la guerra de [Gibraltar](#) —cuyos picos de tensión suelen coincidir con el periodo estival— se ha plasmado en multitud de escaramuzas, muchas de ellas en el ámbito europeo, de las que España y Reino Unido han salido con suerte desigual. Estos son los más importantes frentes aún abiertos:

» Veda de pesca. La decisión del ministro principal de Gibraltar, [Fabian Picardo](#), de prohibir faenar en aguas próximas al Peñón —cuya soberanía se disputan España y Reino Unido— abrió en marzo de 2012 la caja de los truenos. Picardo enterró el acuerdo informal alcanzado en 1999 con las cofradías de pescadores españoles, alegando que violaba una ley medioambiental gibraltareña de 1991. En teoría, los pesqueros afectados son 53 de La Línea y 12 de Algeciras, aunque raramente faenan más de media docena simultáneamente. La Asamblea del Peñón ya ha reformado dicha ley y ha facultado a Picardo a regular la pesca por decreto, pero este no lo ha hecho aún por razones de oportunidad política.

» Bloques de hormigón. En julio de 2013, sin previo aviso, Picardo decidió lanzar a la bahía 70 bloques de hormigón de metro y medio cúbico, terminados en largas barras de hierro. Su objetivo, según dijo, era formar arrecifes artificiales, pero España lo entendió como una provocación. “Los arrecifes se crean donde no hay bancos de pesca, para generarlos, no donde ya los hay, para destruirlos”. El Gobierno denunció ante la Comisión Europea esta medida, así como el [bunkering](#) —suministro de combustible desde gasolineras flotantes— y el relleno de las aguas costeras con arena, pero la dirección de Medio Ambiente de la UE acaba de dictaminar que ninguna de esas prácticas viola la legislación comunitaria. Exteriores no se da por vencido y presentará nuevos informes.

» [Adiós al bunkering](#). Tras años de denuncias de los grupos ecologistas, por el riesgo de vertidos, las gasolineras flotantes han desaparecido del Estrecho. El éxito no se puede achacar al endurecimiento de la legislación española ni a las denuncias ante Bruselas, sino a la competencia del mercado. La firma holandesa Vopak ha abierto una terminal de almacenamiento de combustible en el puerto de Algeciras, desde la que suministra a los buques en tránsito por el Estrecho a través de gabarras. Además, Hacienda ha suprimido el arancel que gravaba la venta a los buques extracomunitarios, lo que le daba ventaja a Gibraltar. Algunas fuentes atribuyen también este cambio a la presión de los verdes gibraltareños, que apoyan a Picardo. El caso es que ya solo queda una gasolinera flotante en la colonia y está atracada en el puerto, no fondeada como antes en plena bahía de Algeciras.

» Rellenos en el mar. Los rellenos de la cara Este del Peñón, con arena de la duna de Valdevaqueros (Tarifa), llevaron a la Fiscalía de Medio Ambiente a pedir la prohibición cautelar del paso de camiones con dicha mercancía a Gibraltar. Las autoridades del Peñón recurrieron a la importación de arena y piedras desde Portugal y Marruecos, lo que Exteriores intentó impedir mediante gestiones diplomáticas. Fuentes gibraltareñas aseguran que la fase actual del Eastside Project, que incluye la construcción de dos espigones y la regeneración de la playa de Sandy Bay, está ya concluida.

» Colas en La Verja. España nunca reconoció la vinculación entre ambos hechos, pero al vertido al mar de los bloques de hormigón siguió el endurecimiento de los controles en La Verja, que provocaron largas colas para entrar y salir del Peñón. La Comisión Europea, que envió dos misiones de inspección —en septiembre de 2013 y en julio

pasado— reconoció el derecho de España a realizar controles (Gibraltar está fuera del espacio Schengen y de la Unión Aduanera), pero tachó algunos de “desproporcionados” y pidió que sean más selectivos, atendiendo a los perfiles de riesgo de los presuntos contrabandistas. España ha anunciado la creación de una tarjeta para agilizar el paso de los trabajadores transfronterizos (6.000 españoles trabajan en la colonia) y la realización de obras en la aduana por 7,4 millones (incluido un sistema automatizado de lectura de matrículas) que deben iniciarse en septiembre y estar acabadas en marzo. Picardo insiste en que los controles están “políticamente motivados” para perjudicar la economía del Peñón.

» Contrabando de tabaco. El reciente informe de la Oficina de Lucha contra el Fraude de la UE (OLAF) que constata indicios de delitos de contrabando de tabaco y blanqueo de capitales en Gibraltar ha sido interpretado por España como una confirmación de sus denuncias. Solo entre 2010 y 2012 las aprehensiones de tabaco de contrabando aumentaron un 213% y en este último año las importaciones de cajetillas rozaron los 140 millones. Gibraltar ha limitado las compras a un cartón por persona desde el 1 de agosto y ha anunciado un cupo de 90 millones de cajetillas importadas a partir del año próximo. Según la OLAF, el contrabando de tabaco ha costado 700 millones a las arcas comunitarias desde 2010.

» Régimen fiscal. La Comisión Europea ha abierto, a petición de España, un procedimiento para comprobar si el régimen fiscal gibraltareño —con un impuesto de sociedades del 10% sobre los ingresos obtenidos en la colonia— supone ayudas de Estado. España logró que el anterior régimen fiscal fuese declarado ilegal por el Tribunal de Estrasburgo, pero cuando lo hizo ya había sido sustituido por uno nuevo, al que achaca los mismos defectos, y ahora teme que vuelva a suceder lo mismo.

El gran 'casino on line' del Estrecho

M. G.

[TXT-DESPI]Con una renta per cápita de 53.000 euros y casi sin desempleo (menos del 2%), Gibraltar es el tercer territorio más rico del mundo. Por el contrario, la renta de sus vecinos gaditanos apenas supera los 7.000 euros y su nivel de paro (por encima del 40%) bate récords mundiales. La cuestión es si la colonia es un emporio de riqueza que no irradia a su entorno por los obstáculos que pone España, como sostienen los gibraltareños, o un parásito que impide el desarrollo de sus vecinos.

Se estima que un tercio del PIB del Peñón procede del tabaco y otro 25% del juego *on line*. Desde el Peñón se gestionan más del 60% de las apuestas por Internet del Reino Unido, más de 600 millones de euros. Este lucrativo negocio está amenazado por una nueva ley británica que podría obligarle a subir los tributos del 1% al 15%. Además, Gibraltar es un importante centro financiero y en su registro mercantil hay unas 30.000 sociedades, de las que 15.673 están activas. Gibraltar alega que solo 66 tienen socios españoles, pero muchas figuran a nombre de testaferros. No hay acuerdo de intercambio fiscal entre Gibraltar y España, pero a ambos los obligan tres directivas de la UE y la OCDE. Gibraltar dice haber tramitado 33 peticiones españolas. España replica que hasta ahora no ha recibido ningún dato relevante.

Gibraltar, en el mapa del fútbol

La selección de fútbol del peñón se estrena en un encuentro clasificatorio para la Eurocopa de Francia 2016 ante Polonia

[Rafael Pineda](#)

Faro [7 SEP 2014 - 23:21 CEST](#)



Ampliar foto La selección de Gibraltar, a la izquierda, en el estadio Algarve de Faro, durante la ceremonia de los himnos. paco fuentes

A 80 kilómetros de la frontera con España, que marca el río Guadiana en Ayamonte, se encuentra el estadio Algarve de Faro, construido [para la Eurocopa de Portugal de 2004](#). En este coqueto estadio se cumplió uno de los sueños de Gibraltar. Fue el estreno oficial de su selección de fútbol en encuentro clasificatorio para la Eurocopa de Francia 2016 ante Polonia. Gibraltar perdió 0-7. Al descanso solo lo hacía por 0-1, actuando con dignidad. Luego se desplomó y [Lewandowski, delantero del Bayern](#), hizo cuatro goles. Se oyó el "canta y no llores".

Un debut frío, con las gradas vacías (1.620 espectadores sobre un aforo de 30.000) mientras se oían los gritos de los futbolistas y hasta el propio golpeo del balón, pero que llena de orgullo a las autoridades y ciudadanos de Gibraltar, una colonia de unos 29.000 habitantes y menos de siete kilómetros cuadrados. "[Es un día histórico para nosotros](#). Vengo con mi hijo, de 11 años, que podrá ver a Gibraltar jugando partidos oficiales. La política lo ha evitado hasta ahora y yo ahí no me meto. Solo puedo decir que estoy muy

feliz porque se nos ha reconocido", afirma Dylan Cocland, aficionado gibraltareño, en un perfecto andaluz. Es uno de los 1.200 aficionados llanitos que hicieron los 400 kilómetros que separan Gibraltar de Faro. Junto a ellos, unos 300 polacos muy ruidosos. "Ya me hubiera gustado jugar en La Línea, pero la política no ha querido", reafirma Joseph Pérez, su amigo. Incluso es más directo: "España no se ha portado bien con nosotros. Jugando en La Línea o en otra ciudad andaluza ganamos todos. Esa actitud de España nos provoca rechazo. Somos británicos por la fuerza que nos da serlo y llanitos para preservar nuestra identidad".

La federación del peñón intentó que el choque se jugara en la Línea. España se negó

Jugar en Faro le cuesta a la federación del Peñón unos [300.000 euros por partido](#). [El estadio Algarve resultaba algo fantasmagórico](#). Una gigantesca camiseta con el escudo de Gibraltar ocupaba una de las esquinas del campo y el gobierno gibraltareño pobló de publicidad institucional el estadio. Sesenta medios, entre gibraltareños, polacos, españoles e ingleses, se acreditaron para este estreno histórico. "Es una pena que se mezcle política y deporte. No hay más remedio que pagar por jugar aquí. No podemos hacer otra cosa porque España no nos deja jugar más cerca", aclara Julian Fortuna, periodista de Gibfootbaltalk. "Tengo amigos jugando ahí abajo y esto es muy grande para nosotros", recalca orgulloso.

Los que están ahí abajo son una amalgama de funcionarios, bomberos, policías y algún profesional del fútbol que se enfrentan al mayor reto de sus carreras. Los profesionales son ingleses con lejanos parientes en el Peñón, lo que les da derecho para defender a Gibraltar. El resto son habitantes de la colonia, que juegan en uno de los ocho equipos de su Liga, que disputan los encuentros en el Victoria Stadium. Precisamente el hecho de que ese estadio no cumpla con los requisitos para albergar partidos internacionales ha provocado este éxodo. España no consiente que Gibraltar juegue en su territorio después de que la UEFA lo admitiera como miembro de pleno derecho en 2013. Mientras construye su nuevo estadio, Gibraltar tiene que buscar casa. Intentó jugar en La Línea, Cádiz, pero España se opuso. Por ello firmó un convenio con Faro y allí encontró acomodo el equipo. Jugará el resto de partidos de clasificación para la Eurocopa, lejos del Peñón, contra Alemania (campeona del mundo), Georgia, Irlanda y Escocia.

EP5- 11th February 2015: "España cerrará la sede del Instituto Cervantes en Gibraltar"

España cerrará la sede del Instituto Cervantes en Gibraltar

Margallo alega que en la colonia británica "todo el mundo habla español, salvo los simios"

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [11 FEB 2015 - 21:17 CET](#)



Ampliar foto Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo antes de su comparecencia ante la Comision de Exteriores. Kiko Huesca EFE

España cerrará la sede en Gibraltarr del Instituto Cervantes y, en su lugar, abrirá otra en Singapur. El ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, José Manuel García-Margallo, ha justificado la clausura alegando que “nadie crea un Instituto Cervantes en lo que considera que es territorio español” y que la principal función de estos centros es fomentar el aprendizaje de la lengua española, “y en Gibraltar todo el mundo la habla, salvo los simios”. La apertura de una sede del Instituto Cervantes en la colonia fue uno de [los acuerdos alcanzados en 2006 en la reunión en Córdoba del denominado Foro Tripartito](#) —Reino Unido, Gibraltar y España— que Margallo da por finiquitado, por considerar que suponía reconocer al Gobierno gibraltareño como interlocutor en pie de igualdad con dos Estados soberanos.

En su comparecencia ante el Congreso, el jefe de la diplomacia española ha negado este miércoles que presionara a los organizadores de Nueva Economía Fórum para que suspendieran la conferencia que tenía previsto dar el 3 de febrero el ministro principal

del Peñón, Fabian Picardo. Pero sí ha reconocido que les hizo saber que no le parecía “útil que el embajador británico acreditado en Madrid presentase al señor Picardo para exponer tesis rotundamente falsas, como que Gibraltar no es una colonia” y que “ningún español acepta el título de ministro principal”, que deriva de una Constitución cuya validez no reconoce España. Al final, Picardo pronunció la conferencia en la misma fecha en un lujoso hotel de Madrid, con financiación de las autoridades gibraltareñas.

El próximo día 19 hará su primera visita a Madrid el secretario del Foreign Office, Philip Hammond. El Gobierno gibraltareño se ha apresurado a aclarar que Hammond ya ha visitado 21 capitales europeas y que “no puede interpretarse de ningún modo como una reunión bilateral sobre Gibraltar”.

30 mafias dan trabajo en La Línea

Grupos criminales ‘operan’ con el tabaco desde Gibraltar, un millonario fraude que ‘emplea’ a una población con 40% de paro

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Guardar

[Patricia Ortega Dolz](#)

La Línea de la Concepción [21 MAR 2015 - 20:08 CET](#)



Registro en una casa-almacén de La Línea de la Concepción, la semana pasada.
MARCOS MORENO

—“Pero ¿cómo se llevan preso a mi marido?!, ¡Si es quien le está dando trabajo y de comer a toda La Atunara!”, les gritaba Elisa Isabel, la mujer de *El Lolo*, a los policías mientras se lo llevaban detenido el pasado 18 de febrero.

La llamaron Operación Poniente y se saldó con 18 registros y más de una veintena de arrestados, de los que Manolo Martínez Jiménez era uno de los cabecillas. Él controlaba a al menos 20 personas en esa barriada pesquera que en sus tiempos trabajó el atún y que es tan antigua como el municipio al que pertenece, La Línea de la Concepción (Cádiz).

Cifras infumables



Tres jóvenes saltan la verja de Gibraltar a La Línea de la Concepción con mochilas llenas de cajas de tabaco. MARCOS MORENO

P.O.D.

- Gibraltar, con una población de **30.000 habitantes**, introduce una media de **120 millones de cajetillas al año**, según datos de la Agencia Tributaria. Si fuese para el consumo interno, cada gibraltareño debería fumarse 11 paquetes al día.
- Los impuestos sobre el tabaco suponen el **27% de la recaudación** del gobierno del Peñón, según datos de la Agencia Tributaria. “De los 500 millones de su presupuesto anual, aproximadamente 150 provienen de los cigarrillos”.

A sus 43 años, y sin saber leer ni escribir, El Lolo había montado una lucrativa empresa de contrabando de tabaco con familiares y amigos de la infancia, los mismos con los que jugó en ese entramado de calles endiabladas de casas bajas coloreadas que nunca oyeron —ni quisieron oír— hablar de un plan urbanístico. Su banda sacó clandestinamente de Gibraltar “unas 150.000 cajetillas de cigarrillos a la semana en 2014, 7,5 millones en todo el año”, según datos de la policía y la Agencia Tributaria.

Aquel día los agentes también fueron a por un vecino suyo, Francisco José Mancilla, *El Largo*, pero estaba ocupado alijando hachís —“Muchos lo combinan”— y se llevaron detenidas a su mujer y a su cuñada. Tres días más tarde, y tras una sonada bronca familiar en la que los padres de las mujeres amenazaron a sus maridos, Mancilla y su socio (y hermano) se presentaron en el juzgado con los 30.000 euros de las fianzas de sus esposas. Billete sobre billete. Hoy están todos los hombres presos por pertenencia a organización criminal, contrabando de tabaco y blanqueo de capitales.

¿¿Cómo se llevan preso a mi marido, si le da de comer a toda La Atunara?!

Los contrabandistas ya no son lo que eran en La Línea. Aquella [solo era una más de las operaciones](#) del Cuerpo Nacional de Policía contra las cerca de 30 mafias organizadas que calculan que están operando con el tabaco entre Gibraltar y el municipio gaditano. Esta misma semana se culminaba la segunda fase de esa Operación Poniente con otros dos detenidos. Los agentes han ascendido en la estructura piramidal de esos grupos criminales hasta llegar a “los blanqueadores”.

Detrás del contrabando hay un blanqueo de capitales que, en este caso y rizando el rizo, vuelve a su origen, al Peñón, en forma de sociedades *offshore* (aprovechan ventajas fiscales), según fuentes de la Agencia Tributaria y [según la OLAF, la Oficina Europea de Lucha Contra el Fraude](#), que ya en verano concluía: “Hay motivos para creer que los delitos de contrabando de tabaco y blanqueo de capitales que afectan a los intereses de la Unión Europea han sido cometidos” en Gibraltar.



Perspectiva de la barriada de La Atunara (La Línea), donde una gran parte de la población se dedica al contrabando de tabaco. MARCOS MORENO

Ya no son solo linenses los que organizan el trasiego de cajas de cigarrillos desde la colonia británica a los municipios colindantes. Ahora ha venido también gente de fuera —“lituanos, búlgaros, rumanos”, enumera un agente— y de provincias limítrofes, por “el efecto llamada” de un negocio clandestino boyante. [La Agencia Tributaria calcula que el fraude a las arcas del Estado español asciende a más de 325 millones de euros al año](#). Una estafa a lo grande que cuenta con la simpatía histórica de una gran parte de los 63.000 habitantes del municipio porque “entra dinero”, “paga la hipoteca”, [“da trabajo” a miles de familias en una localidad que roza un 40% de paro](#) y con uno de los IBI más altos de España.

“Dinero mal venido, dinero mal gastado”, cuenta un contrabandista que le decía su padre, después de estar toda su vida dedicado al contrabando. Pese a la advertencia, él sigue en el negocio. Se ha “preparado” una flota de tres motos que —descargadas de cajetillas— “se quedan como galgos porque les meto 200 paquetes, unos 400 euros de inversión en cada una, y les saco 70 por viaje”. Como tantos otros, mantiene los contactos que le dieron sus familiares con los propietarios indios de los almacenes de Gibraltar y con los receptores de mercancía de La Línea. Hoy él es un padre de familia numerosa mileurista. Va y viene del Peñón varias veces al día con una Scooter y sus dos socios mueven las otras dos. Aún arriesgándose a una multa de 1.200 libras, las cuentas le salen: “Esto es un modo de vida, tres viajes son 210 euros por moto”. Y siempre atento a los relevos de los guardias: “No se puede repetir nunca con el mismo, aunque sea por educación”, es la máxima.

Ha habido un ‘efecto llamada’ y se han metido grupos de Europa del Este

En La Línea, los vigilantes —guardias civiles y policías— son los más vigilados. “Lo saben todo de nosotros”, asegura un agente. “Todos tenemos un mote, conocen los turnos, nuestros movimientos, nos siguen”. Hay una figura imprescindible en cada

grupo. Son los *aguadores* o vigías, quienes avisan de los relevos y de si hay vía libre. Un puesto clave en esos portes a la carrera, a plena luz del día, a la vista de todos y en pocos segundos: descargan las cajas de la lancha en la playa o del otro lado de la verja y corren 50 metros con ellas hasta el punto donde les esperan los motoristas, que salen como alma que lleva el diablo hasta la guardería, la casa dispuesta —previo pago a sus moradores— para alijar ese día la mercancía hasta que se venda. Son tantas, que se dan casos de acudir a un domicilio por una denuncia común y encontrarse “un alijo de 450.000 cigarrillos en el cuarto de baño”, dice un agente.



Una Scooter forrada de paquetes de tabaco. MARCOS MORENO

Detrás de los muros rosados de la mansión de El Lolo, con la puerta flanqueada por dos pequeñas réplicas de los leones del Congreso, encontraron aquel día más de 100.000 euros en metálico, dos coches de alta gama, un equipo avanzado de transmisión, una máquina de contar dinero, aparte de 35.250 cajetillas y lanchas acabinadas en sus almacenes. Aunque su analfabetismo le obligaba a usar solo imágenes y emoticonos con el teléfono, era todo un capo. Casado y con un hijo de 14 años que ya conducía sin carné y llevaba cajas de Ducal y American Legend —las marcas que más almacenan— a otras provincias.

La nueva realidad del contrabando organizado ha sustituido a la visión casi romántica que muestra el grabado del siglo XIX colgado en el museo de La Línea, con las llamadas localmente “matuteras” —llevárselo “de matute” es llevárselo por la cara— escondiéndose el tabaco en el refajo. Pero algo de aquel romanticismo queda: “No se hace daño a nadie”, “mi abuela se traía el azúcar de Gibraltar”, “mejor eso que robar”...

Los cabecillas de las nuevas organizaciones cuentan con un ejército de chavales sin oficio ni beneficio que pasan horas en el bar intentando ganarle a la máquina tragaperras y bebiendo batidos. Están a la espera de que les suene el móvil y otro colega diga las palabras mágicas: “Hoy se trabaja”. A 10-15 euros por carrera, “hay noches que descargan 100 cajas entre tres o cuatro”, asegura un guardia.

[Gibraltar, con 30.000 habitantes, sigue dejando entrar 120 millones de cajetillas al año](#) de cuyos impuestos obtienen el 27 % de sus ingresos, según la Agencia Tributaria. “Es imposible que se lo fumen, están amparando el contrabando”, dice un delegado de la agencia, que [ha duplicado sus esfuerzos de control en la zona](#). Un fraude de goteo diario, por tierra y por mar, tan persistente y tan difícil de parar como las olas que bañan las costas de este pueblo en los confines del sur de Europa.

EP7- 23rd June 2015: "¿Referéndum sobre la UE en Gibraltar? No, thanks"

¿Referéndum sobre la UE en Gibraltar? No, thanks

El Peñón tiembla ante las posibles repercusiones económicas y políticas de la consulta

[Ana Carbajosa](#)

Gibraltar [23 JUN 2015 - 19:00 CEST](#)



Ana Carbajosa/Marcos Moreno

Una riada de trabajadores [cruza a primera hora de la mañana la frontera que separa La Línea de la Concepción de Gibraltar](#). Son 10.000 cada día y ponen su fuerza de trabajo al servicio de una economía que florece pero que también tiembla desde que Londres convocara un referéndum para decidir si siguen formando parte de la Unión Europea y en qué condiciones. En coche, a pie o en bicicleta, los trabajadores acuden raudos a su puesto frente a los ordenadores desde los que operan los casinos *on line*, los fondos de inversión o las aseguradoras que vertebran la economía del peñón.

Hoy, además, ha atracado en Gibraltar un crucero con 3.000 turistas que han convertido la Main Street en intransitable. Los tenderos no dan abasto. Venden joyas, tabaco y todo tipo de productos sin IVA. “Todo dependerá de qué pase con la frontera y de si van a seguir viniendo los turistas y los trabajadores españoles”, cree Suresh Basantani, propietario de tres tiendas de electrónica, música y un *Duty free*. Hasta siete millones de turistas desfilan cada año por Gibraltar, y hay días pico en los que llega tanta gente como habitantes tiene el peñón, 30.000.

Ministro principal de Gibraltar: Abandonar el mercado europeo sería dramático

[Esta boyante cotidianeidad](#) podría saltar por los aires si los euroescépticos británicos triunfan en las urnas. Porque si perder la conexión privilegiada con un mercado de 500 millones de personas supone un drama para cualquier país, para el minúsculo territorio gibraltareño resulta vital, repiten en el Peñón. “Si el resultado del referéndum pasa por abandonar el mercado europeo sería dramático para Gibraltar, pero si deciden salir de la UE pero permanecer en el mercado único, tal vez no sería tan grave”, estima el ministro principal de Gibraltar, Fabián Picardo, en su oficina del Peñón, [el número seis de Covent Place](#). Picardo, laborista y europeísta, ha llegado a decir que la [consulta es una “amenaza existencial” para Gibraltar](#), un territorio que prevé un crecimiento del PIB del 17% este año y cuyo desempleo es anecdótico.

Los servicios financieros, los seguros, los casinos y apuestas *on line*, el aprovisionamiento de barcos y cambios de tripulación son, junto con el turismo, los pilares de la economía gibraltareña. Formar parte de la UE y ser a la vez un centro financiero europeo con notables ventajas fiscales –impuesto de sociedades del 10% y exención de IVA- es una realidad que Gibraltar aspira a conservar y que podría verse truncada por los vientos populistas y antieuropeos procedentes del Reino Unido.

Las empresas de servicios financieros y las aseguradoras serían las primeras víctimas de una hipotética salida del mercado europeo. Desde Gibraltar se gestionan fondos de inversión, dividendos, *hedge funds* y todo tipo de productos financieros. Hay instaladas además 63 aseguradoras, principalmente mayoristas, que gracias al llamado pasaporte europeo pueden prestar sus servicios en otros países de la UE y competir con ellos. El 15% de los seguros de coche británicos, por ejemplo, proceden de mayoristas gibraltareños.

“Somos una sociedad de comerciantes”, estima el director de la Cámara de Comercio de Gibraltar Edward Macquisten. “Gibraltar siempre ha dependido de los mercados exteriores y esto puede tener un efecto muy negativo en nuestra economía”. De momento, explica, hay empresas que ya han creado equipos legales y financieros para estudiar los posibles escenarios. “No está claro en qué términos se celebrará la consulta ni cuánto durará el proceso. Todo esto crea incertidumbre y los empresarios odian la incertidumbre”. Alerta además de que los efectos se sentirán irremediabilmente al otro lado de la frontera, en el Campo de Gibraltar, y, sobre todo, en La Línea, la ciudad siamesa que nutre con mano de obra a la gran empresa gibraltareña.

El juego <i>on line</i>, que se reparten unas 30 empresas, representa el 20% de su economía
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Nick Cruz es un conocido abogado del Peñón y director no ejecutivo de Enterprise Holdings una aseguradora que opera en Grecia y en Francia entre otros países y asegura [que si hubiera un Brexit](#), su empresa no podría operar en Francia a no ser que estableciera allí un negocio. “Nuestro modelo de negocios es cada vez más dependiente de las relaciones con otros países europeos. El impacto de una salida de la UE sería enorme”.

Ruleta, póker, casino, bingo, la final de la Champions, tenis. Internet ha supuesto para Gibraltar el maná que ha permitido a su economía crecer mucho más allá de sus seis kilómetros cuadrados de superficie -dos tercios de ellos ocupados por la roca- y con el que ha desarrollado en poco más de una década una impresionante capacidad de

penetración comercial. El juego *on line* emplea aquí a 3.500 personas -la mitad de ellos no son ni británicos ni de Gibraltar- y representa en torno al 20% de su economía, que se reparten unas 30 empresas.

“Se instalan aquí por razones fiscales”, explica Phill Brear, comisario del juego del Gobierno de Gibraltar, quien considera que una salida del mercado único no tendría en principio un impacto directo en este sector, pero sí uno indirecto, ya que tras las pantallas de los ordenadores trabajan jóvenes de media Europa que entran y salen a diario del Peñón y que no está nada claro que estuvieran dispuestos a pagar el precio político del aislamiento.

El guardián de la frontera

Gibraltar teme que sin el paraguas de la UE la gestión de la frontera quede en manos de España. “Los tratados nos protegen. Salir de la UE daría más herramientas a los que buscan crearnos problemas”, declara el ministro principal, Fabián Picardo, que rema contracorriente. “Las reglas europeas son las que permiten que no se cierre la frontera”. Si Londres prepara el referéndum, Gibraltar estudia pedir la entrada a la zona Schengen. “Queremos más Europa”.

32 Red pic es una de esas empresas en las que se puede hacer girar la ruleta, jugar al póker o apostar por un equipo de fútbol desde casa, apretando las teclas del ordenador. Hileras de trabajadores con pinganillo atienden solícitos a las consultas y quejas de los que hoy apuestan por Nadal contra Tomic o juegan al BlackJack y hacen un minucioso seguimiento de las partidas de cada cliente, para asegurarse por ejemplo, que no gasta por encima de sus posibilidades.

“Para nosotros sería muy preocupante un resultado negativo en el referéndum”, piensa Ed Ware, director de la empresa. “Nos resulta mucho más fácil operar en países europeos”, dice el responsable de otra compañía de 200 trabajadores especializada en póker *on line* –muy popular entre los clientes españoles-, que prefiere no desvelar su identidad. La mitad de los trabajadores de esta empresa vive en España y entra y sale cada día. Los que viven en Gibraltar pasan a cenar o a tomar una copa al otro lado con frecuencia. El atractivo de Gibraltar como experiencia laboral cambiaría sustancialmente de ser un lugar conectado a pasar a ser una isla.

A la amenaza económica le sigue la política. Sin el paraguas de la UE, las autoridades gibraltareñas temen que [la gestión de la frontera quede a merced de las decisiones españolas](#). “Los tratados nos protegen”, declara el ministro principal. “Salir de la UE daría más herramientas a los que buscan crearnos problemas. Las reglas europeas son las que permiten que no se cierre la frontera”. Por eso, mientras en Reino Unido ultiman los términos de la consulta, que está previsto que se celebre en 2017, Picardo rema en la dirección contraria y ya ha encargado un estudio para ver si sería posible que Gibraltar pasara a formar parte de la zona Schengen. “Gibraltar quiere más Europa, pero una Europa reformada y mejor”.

Gibraltar revisará sus planes ecológicos tras el expediente de la UE

Las autoridades del Peñón califican de "detalle técnico" la crítica de la Comisión Europea

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [4 AGO 2015 - 21:18 CEST](#)

[Gibraltar](#) "se ha comprometido a llevar a cabo para finales de año una revisión" de sus planes de conservación de las aguas que rodean el Peñón y sus disposiciones reglamentarias, tras la apertura de un procedimiento de infracción por parte de la Comisión Europea por incumplimiento de la [directiva de protección mediambiental Hábitats](#).

En respuesta a la información de El PAÍS, que daba cuenta de la apertura de dicho expediente, el [Gobierno gibraltareño](#) difundió este martes un comunicado en el que asegura que este se refiere a "un detalle técnico de menor importancia"; a saber, que "los objetivos de conservación para las especies y hábitats [establecidos por Reino Unido en esta zona] son demasiado generales y amplios".

Las autoridades gibraltareñas confían en que "la Comisión considerará razonable la propuesta" que ha formulado la representación británica en Bruselas y que el expediente se archivará sin que se llegue a presentar una denuncia contra Londres ante la Corte de Justicia de la UE.

Tanto España como Reino Unido declararon ante la Comisión Europea sendas zonas de especial conservación (ZEC) [en las aguas que rodean el Peñón](#), cuya soberanía reclaman los dos países. Bruselas aceptó ambas ZEC, pero exigió que se adoptaran medidas de protección del ecosistema marino, lo que España ha hecho prohibiendo el búnkering o los rellenos y estableciendo un régimen sancionador para infracciones medioambientales.

El Gobierno gibraltareño asegura que España está "mucho peor" que Reino Unido, pues la Comisión le ha abierto procedimiento de infracción por no designar sus ZEC. Precisamente este martes la Junta de Andalucía designó nueve ZEC marinas, con una extensión de 37.352 hectáreas, incluida la isla de Alborán. Ninguna de ellas se refiere, sin embargo, a las aguas en disputa en Gibraltar, donde las medidas adoptadas por España han sido aceptadas por la Comisión.

De otro lado, Gibraltar ha elevado una queja a la UE por las demoras causadas en la Verja por la instauración por España del control automatizado de peatones desde finales de julio, que debía agilizar el tránsito y, que según las autoridades del Peñón, ha tenido el efecto contrario y provocado largas colas.

EP9- 27th November 2015: "El socialista Picardo arrasa en las elecciones de Gibraltar"

El socialista Picardo arrasa en las elecciones de Gibraltar

El actual ministro principal revalida el cargo con el 68% de los votos

[J. Jiménez Gálvez](#)

Madrid [27 NOV 2015 - 19:55 CET](#)



Picardo celebra la victoria, este viernes. EFE

Gibraltar ha elegido la izquierda. El [socialista Fabian Picardo](#), candidato de la coalición GSLP-GLP, ha ganado las elecciones celebradas este jueves en el Peñón. La formación del actual ministro principal, que revalida su cargo para otros cuatro años, ha arrasado con el 68,03% de los votos, según los datos facilitados este viernes por el Parlamento de la colonia británica. El partido del líder de la oposición, Daniel Feetham, del GSD de centro-derecha, solo ha recabado el 31,37% de los apoyos. El vencedor de los comicios, en declaraciones recogidas por Efe, ha calificado el resultado de "tsunami" y ha añadido que, a partir de ahora, trabajará para sacar adelante su programa con "humildad, humildad y humildad".

La jornada electoral ha estado marcada por la bajada de la participación. Apenas 16.475 ciudadanos han ejercido su derecho a voto este jueves, un 70% de los 23.278 llamados a las urnas. Estas cifras implican una caída de casi 12 puntos respecto a los comicios de 2011, cuando Picardo [desbancó al entonces ministro principal, Peter Caruana](#), tras 15 años en el Gobierno. En esa ocasión, el socialista ganó por la mínima, ya que obtuvo el respaldo del 48,88% del electorado, frente al 46,76% que logró su oponente.

Tras el recuento de los votos, que se ha prolongado durante más de ocho horas y ha acabado sobre las siete y media de la mañana de este viernes, el Parlamento gibraltareño ha quedado repartido de esta manera: diez diputados para la coalición en el Gobierno; y siete escaños para la oposición. Los gibraltareños eligen a la Cámara mediante un sistema de listas abiertas, mediante el que pueden votar a un máximo de 10 candidatos, que no tienen por qué ser de la misma opción política.

Picardo ha roto los pronósticos. Los sondeos publicados en las últimas semanas otorgaban al ministro principal una intención de voto del 39%, 20 puntos por encima del hasta 19% que concedían a la oposición. Es cierto, eso sí, que el porcentaje de indecisos era alto y que una encuesta de mediados de años de la televisión GBC otorgaba al líder del GSLP un 50%. "No creo que estos cuatro años de Gobierno me hayan desgastado. Ha sido una gran oportunidad para demostrar que lo que decían nuestros detractores no era verdad", aseguró Picardo [en una entrevista concedida a EL PAÍS](#).

Picardo consigue 10.852 votos, más del doble de los 5.054 recabados por el líder de la oposición

Al tratarse de listas abiertas, el Parlamento gibraltareño también ha difundido los votos recabados por cada uno de los diez candidatos que presentaban las dos formaciones. Picardo ha sido la persona más respaldada: por 10.852 ciudadanos. Le siguen John Joseph Garcia y John Emmanuel Cortes, en segunda y tercera posición respectivamente, con 10.661 y 10.529 papeletas de apoyo. Ambos de la coalición en el Gobierno. Feetham no aparece en el *ranking* hasta el puesto undécimo, con 5.054 votos.

Gibraltar espera los resultados que arrojen ahora las urnas en España, que celebra elecciones generales el próximo 20-D. Las relaciones entre el Peñón y Madrid se encuentran se rompieron absolutamente con la llegada del PP a La Moncloa. Picardo espera que el próximo ministro español de Asuntos Exteriores muestre una actitud más "bondadosa". "No ha habido [en ese cargo] una persona razonable durante los últimos cuatro años", apunta el ministro principal, en referencia a José Manuel García-Margallo. Por su parte, el PSOE de Cádiz ya ha asegurado que, tras la victoria de los socialistas llanitos, "con un Gobierno del PSOE se abre una oportunidad de retomar el diálogo y las políticas de buena vecindad para darle la vuelta a la situación de conflictividad que se ha vivido estos años".

EP10- 15th May 2016: "España no da permiso de paso al vuelo a Gibraltar de un ministro británico"

España no da permiso de paso al vuelo a Gibraltar de un ministro británico

Fuentes diplomáticas aseguran que es una práctica habitual con los viajes oficiales a la colonia

[Miguel González](#)

La Habana [15 MAY 2016 - 23:09 CEST](#)



El ministro de Exteriores británico, Philip Hammond. AFOLABI SOTUNDE REUTERS

El avión oficial que trasladó la semana pasada a Gibraltar al ministro de Exteriores británico, Philip Hammond, tuvo que desviarse al espacio aéreo portugués ante la negativa española a que sobrevolase su territorio. Fuentes diplomáticas españolas niegan que se tratase de una represalia por el viaje del secretario del Foreign Office a la colonia, a pesar de que causó hondo malestar en Madrid, y recordaron que se trata de una medida general: ningún vuelo de Estado que entra o sale de Gibraltar puede atravesar espacio aéreo español.

Esta limitación no se aplica a los vuelos civiles, pero sí a los cazas de la Fuerza Aérea Británica (RAF) que con frecuencia realizan ejercicios en el aeropuerto del Peñón, construido sobre un istmo no cedido por España en el Tratado de Utrecht.

Las restricciones impiden también que los aviones o buques que toquen el Peñón lo hagan inmediatamente antes o después en un puerto o aeropuerto español. “Todos los socios de la OTAN las conocen y especialmente Hammond, que fue ministro de Defensa”, agregaron las mismas fuentes.

La visita de Hammond, primer secretario del Foreign Office que visita el Peñón desde 2009, sentó muy mal en Madrid. Además de hacer campaña contra el *Brexit*, se alineó con las tesis gibraltareñas y aseguró que Londres no iniciará ninguna negociación con España sin el visto bueno del Gobierno de la colonia, e insistió en resucitar el Foro Tripartito, rechazado por Madrid. Como protesta, el ministro de Justicia, Rafael Catalá, se negó a asistir a la cena ofrecida por Cameron a los asistentes de una cumbre contra la corrupción en Londres.

APPENDIX 2 TARGET TEXTS (TTs): *El País English Edition (EPEE)*

EPEE1- 30th July 2014: "Spain to give workers fast-track access across Gibraltar border"

Spain to give workers fast-track access across Gibraltar border

Both Spaniards and Gibraltarians may apply, though in practice measure mostly benefits the former

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [30 JUL 2014 - 16:15 CEST](#)



Most people have to wait over an hour to cross the border between Gibraltar and La Línea de la Concepción. MARCOS MORENO

The Spanish government wants to stop the long lines at the Gibraltar border from adversely affecting the around 6,000 Spaniards who have to commute into the British territory to work every day.

On Tuesday, the Official Gazette published a decision to create a special document for “border workers” who will be able to get in and out of Gibraltar through a fast-track route.

To avoid accusations of discriminatory treatment, Spain is also offering fast-lane access to Gibraltarians who work in Spain, although in practice these are much fewer.

Spanish authorities say that border checks are necessary to deal with increased smuggling

Traffic jams at the border between the Rock and the town of La Línea de la Concepción on the Spanish side have been the subject of dispute between Spain and Britain. Around 30,000 people cross the border each day, and spend between 60 and 90 minutes waiting in line.

Spanish authorities say that border checks are necessary to deal with increased smuggling of tobacco and other products from Gibraltar into Spain.

Britain believes the tougher checks are retaliation for Gibraltar's decision to [sink concrete blocks](#) into the sea to hinder the work of Spanish fishermen in a disputed area.

EU inspectors who visited the site [on a fact-finding mission](#) on September 25, 2013 confirmed that Spain has the right to conduct border checks. The inspectors came back in early July to see whether their recommendations were being followed.

Remodeling work to improve the Spanish side of the border crossing is scheduled to begin in 15 days, at a cost of €7.5 million. The completion date is set for May 2015.

EPEE2- 14th August 2014: "Gibraltar tobacco smuggling cost EU €700m in tax revenue over four years"

Gibraltar tobacco smuggling cost EU €700m in tax revenue over four years

Spain begins judicial investigation into contraband at OLAF anti-fraud office's recommendation

[Fernando J. Pérez](#)

[El País](#)

Madrid [14 AGO 2014 - 11:55 CEST](#)



Ampliar foto Two people carry contraband tobacco from Gibraltar to Spain in August 2013. M. M. AFP

Tobacco smuggling in Gibraltar between 2010 and 2013 deprived finance ministries across the European Union of an estimated €700 million in tax revenue, according to a report by the EU's anti-fraud office, OLAF, sent to the governments of Spain and the United Kingdom. The 400-page OLAF report names specific companies involved in cigarette and tobacco smuggling in the British Overseas Territory, as well as money laundering.

Spain's High Court opened legal information proceedings into the issue on Wednesday, with a view to undertaking [a full judicial investigation](#).

Around 60 percent of all tobacco seized by the Spanish authorities takes place at the border crossing between Gibraltar and Spain – more than 10 million packets in 2013 – although the majority of it is in small quantities. In December 2012 Spanish police confiscated just under half a million packets of cigarettes that had been smuggled into Algeciras port in containers

Around 60% of all tobacco seized by the Spanish authorities takes place at the Gibraltar border

Spain's foreign ministry has repeatedly criticized the Gibraltar authorities of failing to tackle tobacco imports.

Meanwhile, the Spanish agriculture ministry has reported Gibraltar to the European Commission, accusing the authorities there of allowing recreational fishing of Atlantic bluefin tuna, a protected species that can only be caught between June 15 and July 9 under Spanish law. Civil Guard coastguards say they detected a yacht fishing in the western end of the Bay of Algeciras over the weekend of August 8-10. They attempted to intercept it, but were prevented from doing so by the presence of Royal Navy and Gibraltar police vessels.

Spain and Gibraltar have been at loggerheads over the issues of smuggling and fishing over the last year, with the Spanish authorities carrying out [exhaustive border checks](#) that have created long delays at the crossing. The Gibraltar authorities have complained about the measures to Brussels, which has [sent inspectors to the area](#).

EPEE3- 22nd August 2014: "Gibraltar: The ongoing confrontation"

Gibraltar: The ongoing confrontation

Spain and the Rock have taken many of their grievances to Brussels, with uneven results for both

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [22 AGO 2014 - 13:17 CEST](#)



An ice-cream vendor serves customers in the long lines at the Gibraltar border. marcos moreno

The first thing José Manuel García-Margallo did when he took up the post of foreign affairs minister in December 2011 was to reply to a letter that UK Foreign Secretary William Hague had sent 18 months earlier to Margallo's predecessor, Miguel Ángel Moratinos.

In it, Margallo explained that he would not allow Hague to assert that London would not discuss the matter of Gibraltar's sovereignty without prior approval from the residents of the British Overseas Territory.

The Spanish minister stated that the United Kingdom could consult with anyone it liked regarding the future of its territory, but that it could not refuse to talk following its commitment to do so at the 1984 Brussels Process.

Nobody knows how the Foreign Office took this late reply, but Margallo did not care. The point was to [state his own position](#), to make it clear that he would not yield an inch, and to try to regain ground that had been lost under the previous Socialist administration.

Ever since then, the conflict over Gibraltar — whose moments of greatest tension typically occur during the summer — has resulted in dozens of skirmishes, many of

them at the European level. The following are the main fronts that remain open in the ongoing confrontation between Britain and Spain:

» **Fishing ban.** The decision by Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, to ban fishing in waters whose sovereignty is under dispute opened up Pandora's box in March 2012. By doing so, Picardo was ignoring an informal agreement reached in 1999 with Spanish fishermen to let them work in the area. Now, Gibraltar claimed that the practice violated a 1991 environmental law. In theory, 53 fishermen from La Línea and 12 from Algeciras are affected by the ban, although in practice there are almost never more than six out fishing at any given time. The Gibraltar Assembly has already reformed this law and allowed Picardo to regulate fishing by decree, but he has failed to do so for opportunistic reasons.

The great online casino

M.G.

With per capita income of €53,000 and virtually no unemployment (it is less than two percent), Gibraltar is the third-wealthiest territory in the world. By comparison, residents of Cádiz struggle with more than 40-percent joblessness and per capita income of barely over €7,000. The question is whether the overseas territory is an emporium of wealth that does not spread to its neighbors because of the obstacles created by Spain, as Gibraltar claims, or whether the Rock is just a parasite that prevents growth in nearby Cádiz, as Spain believes.

An estimated third of Gibraltar's GDP comes from tobacco and another 25 percent from online gaming. The Rock handles more than 60 percent of Britain's internet bets, representing over €600 million. This lucrative business is now under threat from a new British law that could raise taxes from one percent to 15 percent.

Gibraltar is also a major financial center and its business register shows around 30,000 companies, of which 15,673 are active. Gibraltar says that only 66 of them have Spanish partners, but many are registered to front men. There is no agreement between Spain and Gibraltar to exchange fiscal information, although both are bound by three EU and OECD directives. Gibraltar says it has answered 33 Spanish requests for information, but Spain says that it has not received any relevant information to date.

» **Concrete blocks.** In July 2013, without prior notice, Picardo decided to [sink 70 concrete blocks](#) with iron spikes into the bay. His stated goal was to create artificial reefs, but Spain took it as a provocation. "Reefs are created where there are no fishing grounds, in order to build them, not where they are already there, in order to destroy them," said the Spanish government. Spain denounced the practice before the European Commission, but EU environmental authorities have just said that it does not violate European legislation. Spain will produce new reports to back its position.

» **Goodbye to "bunkering."** After [years of complaints](#) by environmental groups over the risk of an oil spill, the floating gas stations that ships from all over the world used to refuel cheaply are finally gone. But this success cannot be attributed to tougher Spanish legislation or to actions from Brussels – instead, it was the market that killed the practice. The Dutch firm Vopak has opened up a fuel storage plant in the port of

Algeciras, from which it supplies fuel to ships in transit from barges. Also, Spain has eliminated the tax on sales of fuel to non-EU vessels, a fee that Gibraltar was not charging. Some sources also say that the decision may have been influenced by Gibraltar's own green groups, which support Picardo. In any case, there is only one floating fuel station left in Gibraltar, and it is now inside the port, not out in the bay of Algeciras.

» **Landfill.** The [landfill activities being conducted](#) on the east side of the Rock using sand from the dune at the Spanish beach of Valdevaqueros (Tarifa), led the Spanish attorney's office for environmental affairs to request that trucks carrying loads of sand be banned from crossing into Gibraltar. The latter then began importing sand and stones from Portugal and Morocco. Spain tried to stop this through diplomatic action. Sources in Gibraltar said that the current phase of Eastside Project, which includes building two breakwaters and renewing the sand at Sandy Bay, has been completed.

» **Long lines at La Verja.** Spain has never admitted to any link between both events, but the fact remains that after Gibraltar sank the concrete blocks into the bay, Spanish authorities increased border checks significantly, creating long lines of vehicles trying to get in and out of the Rock. The European Commission sent two delegations to investigate the matter in September 2013 and July of this year, and concluded that [Spain has the right](#) to conduct checks since Gibraltar is not part of Schengen or the customs union. But the EU said that some checks were "disproportionate" and asked authorities to be more selective on the basis of the estimated risk of smuggling. Spain is now introducing a new permit that will allow workers who need to cross the line daily [to do so in a fast lane](#), and said it will introduce a new automated system to read license plates. Picardo insists that the border checks are ["politically motivated"](#) in an attempt to hurt the local economy.

» **Tobacco smuggling.** A recent report by the EU's anti-fraud office, OLAF, found indications of smuggling and money laundering in Gibraltar. Spain took this as a confirmation of its long-held complaints. Between 2010 and 2012, seizures of smuggled tobacco products grew 213 percent. Beginning on August 1, Gibraltar set a limit of one carton per person, and it has announced an import ceiling of 90 million packs beginning next year. According to OLAF, tobacco smuggling has [cost European coffers €700 million](#) since 2010.

» **Tax regime.** On Spain's request, the European Commission has opened proceedings to determine whether Gibraltar's fiscal regime, which collects corporate tax of 10 percent on earnings obtained there, represents covert state aid. Spain already managed to have Gibraltar's earlier tax system be declared illegal by the Strasbourg court. By then, though, Gibraltar had replaced its regime with a new one.

EPEE4- 8th September 2014: "Gibraltar takes its place on the world soccer map"

Gibraltar takes its place on the world soccer map

The British territory plays its first senior competitive match in Portugal's Algarve Stadium

[Rafael Pineda](#)

Faro [8 SEP 2014 - 14:46 CEST](#)



Ampliar foto The Gibraltar team (left) in the Estádio Algarve in Faro on Sunday. paco fuentes

Eighty kilometers across the Spanish border stands the Estádio Algarve in Faro, built for Euro 2004 in Portugal. It was here on Sunday that Gibraltar fulfilled one of its soccer dreams: playing its first ever senior competitive match: a Euro 2016 qualifier against Poland. It lost the game 0-7, but was down only 0-1 at half time after acquitting itself well. It then collapsed in the second half with Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski scoring four.

Something of a tepid debut, then, which was played out to an empty stadium (just 1,620 in a 30,000-capacity arena) where you could hear the shouts of the players and the thud of the ball being struck. But it was one that filled the authorities and inhabitants of Gibraltar with pride. "It is an historic day for us," said Gibraltar fan Dylan Cocland in Andalusian-accented Spanish. "I've come here with my 11-year-old son, who will be able to see Gibraltar play official matches. Politics have prevented it from happening until now, but I'm not going to go into that. I can only say that I am very happy that they have recognized us."

Spain hasn't treated us well. Playing in an Andalusian city would be a win-win"

Cocland is one of 1,200 of the territory's 29,000 inhabitants who made the 400-kilometer trip to Faro. Along with them were 300 very noisy Polish fans. "I would have liked to see them play in La Línea [the Spanish town that sits on the border with Gibraltar] but politics did not allow it," added his friend Joseph Pérez. "Spain hasn't treated us well. Playing in La Línea or in another Andalusian city would be a win-win for everyone. This attitude of Spain makes us feel rejected. We are British because of the strength it gives us to be so and Gibraltarian to preserve our identity."

Playing in Faro costs the Gibraltar soccer federation €300,000 a game. A gigantic shirt with the Gibraltar badge occupied one corner of the stadium, which the territory's government had filled with institutional promotion. Sixty media organizations – including those from Gibraltar, Poland, Spain and Britain – were accredited to cover the historic game. "It is a shame that politics and sport get mixed together," said Julian Fortuna, a journalist at Gibfootballtalk. "I have friends playing down there and this is very big for us."

Civil servants, firemen, policemen and the odd professional soccer player made up the team, many of whom were facing the biggest challenge of their careers. The professionals are [Brits with distant relatives on the Rock](#), which gives them the right to play for the team. The rest are Gibraltar inhabitants who make up one of the eight teams from the territory's league, whose matches are played in the Victoria Stadium. It is the fact that this venue does not meet Uefa requirements to host international games that led to the exodus. Spain will not consent to Gibraltar playing games on home soil after Uefa [admitted the territory as a full member in 2013](#). So while it builds a new stadium it needs to find another home. It tried to play in La Línea and Cádiz, but Spain opposed, which is why it signed an agreement with Faro and found lodging there. It will thus play the rest of its Euro 2016 Group D qualifying games in Portugal: against Georgia, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland and current world champions Germany.

[EPEE5- 12th February 2015: "Spain to close Cervantes Institute branch in Gibraltar"](#)

Spain to close Cervantes Institute branch in Gibraltar

Foreign minister: "Everyone there speaks Spanish, apart from the apes"

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [12 FEB 2015 - 12:26 CET](#)



Ampliar foto José Manuel García-Margallo during his appearance before the foreign relations committee in Congress. Kiko Huesca EFE

Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo stirred up the diplomatic waters on Wednesday when he announced the closing of the Cervantes Institute in Gibraltar, saying it did not make sense having a center promoting Spanish language and culture in an area that is considered "Spanish territory."

"In Gibraltar everyone speaks Spanish, apart from the apes," the foreign minister said.

The government opened a branch of the Cervantes Institute in the British colony in 2006 as part of an agreement by the so-called Tripartite Forum that for the first time brought together representatives of Spain, Britain and Gibraltar at a meeting in Córdoba.

Speaking before the foreign relations committee in Congress, García-Margallo said he had decided to close the institute because he considered the Tripartite Forum to be concluded, as it had meant treating Gibraltar on an equal footing with Spain and Britain, which he called unacceptable.

In its place, Spain will now open a Cervantes Institute in Singapore. The non-profit centers are located in 20 different countries.

Spain's top diplomat also denied that the government had pressured to prevent Gibraltar Chief Minister [Fabian Picardo](#) from speaking earlier this month at the New Economic

Forum. But he did acknowledge that he had let organizers know that he did not think it “useful” to allow the British ambassador in Madrid, Simon Manley, to introduce Picardo so he could deliver his “categorically false theories, such as Gibraltar is not a colony.”

Picardo finally addressed the event at a Madrid hotel paid for by Gibraltarian authorities.

“There isn’t one Spaniard who accepts the title of chief minister,” García-Margallo told lawmakers.

[EPEE6- 26th March 2015:" Spanish police crack down on Gibraltar cigarette smugglers"](#)

Spanish police crack down on Gibraltar cigarette smugglers

Tobacco has become a major source of income for communities bordering the Rock

[Patricia Ortega Dolz](#)

La Línea de la Concepción [26 MAR 2015 - 12:33 CET](#)



A recent police search of a smugglers' safe house in La Línea de la Concepción.
MARCOS MORENO

“What are you doing? You can’t take my husband away, he provides work and puts food on the table for everybody round here,” shouted Elisa Isabel at police officers after they arrested her husband, Manolo Martínez Jiménez, also known as “El Lolo,” on February 18.

Spanish police working on Operation Poniente also detained more than 20 people who allegedly worked for El Lolo and searched 18 premises in La Atunara, a run-down neighborhood of La Línea de la Concepción, a town of around 60,000 people that borders Gibraltar.

Eastern European gangs are increasingly becoming involved in tobacco smuggling, say police

Aged 43 and illiterate, El Lolo ran a tobacco-smuggling network with relatives and childhood friends, trafficking around 150,000 packets of cigarettes each week during 2014 – or 7.5 million over the course of the year – according to police and tax authorities.

Police also wanted to arrest Francisco José Mancilla, also known as El Largo, but he was allegedly occupied smuggling hashish; instead they took away his wife and sister-in-law. Three days later, after pressure from the women's parents, Mancilla and his brother presented themselves at court with a €30,000 bail bond in cash for the two women. The men were arrested and charged with belonging to a criminal organization, smuggling tobacco, and money laundering.

Spanish police have cracked down hard on [La Línea's tobacco smugglers](#) in recent months, carrying out operations against around 30 different mafias accused of illegally bringing in cigarettes from Gibraltar. The police have also managed to move up the structure of the criminal organizations to identify some of those responsible for laundering the money made from the smuggling.



A view over La Atunara neighborhood, where much of La Línea's tobacco smuggling is centered. MARCOS MORENO

The Spanish tax authorities and OLAF, the EU's anti-fraud office, say most of the money is pumped back into Gibraltar and held in accounts there. "We have reason to believe that offenses related to tobacco smuggling and money laundering [in Gibraltar] affecting the interests of the European Union have been committed," [reads a recent OLAF report](#).

Tobacco smuggling has long been a source of revenue for the communities bordering Gibraltar, but police say that eastern European gangs, from Lithuania, Bulgaria, and Romania, are increasingly becoming involved. The Spanish tax authorities estimate that Spain is losing around €325 million in revenue each year as a result.

Smuggling provides much-needed income for communities such as La Atunara, which have unemployment levels of around 40 percent. "It's a losing game," says one local man who has been smuggling all his life. He runs three scooters, and says he makes around €210 from each tobacco run.

Up in smoke

- Gibraltar, which has around 30,000 inhabitants, imports around 120 million packets of cigarettes a year, according to the Spanish tax authorities – equivalent to 11 packets a day per person.

- Tax on tobacco makes up 27 percent of the Rock's revenue, says Spain: around €150 million.

Like other smugglers in La Atunara, he has contacts with the Indian importers based in Gibraltar as well as buyers in La Línea, and makes several trips a day into Gibraltar with his two partners. "This is a way of earning a living: three trips are €210 for each scooter." Aside from the risk of a fine of up to £1,200 by the Gibraltar authorities, he says he also has to time his return into Spain to avoid attracting the attention of the police at the crossing point: "You can't go past the same guard twice in a day, if only out of politeness." A Civil Guard officer on duty at the crossing says that he and his companions are under constant surveillance by the smugglers: "They know everything about us: they give us nicknames, they know when we come on duty, where we go: they follow us," he adds.

Each smuggling gang has its watchman, tasked with letting the others know when it is safe to bring a motor launch ashore loaded with cigarettes and to run the 50 or so meters up the beach to the road where scooters are waiting to take the haul to a safe house where it will be stored for a couple of days – the occupants of the property receive a cut. So many houses are used in this way that police say they sometimes stumble across dozens of cartons stashed away in a bathroom after they are called out on a routine complaint.

Behind the pastel-colored walls of El Lolo's property, its entrance flanked by two statues of lions – copies of those that stand outside the Spanish Congress in Madrid – police seized more than €100,000 in cash, along with two luxury cars, a banknote-counting machine, 35,250 packets of cigarettes and a number of inflatable motor launches. Police say El Lolo's 14-year-old son is already an experienced driver and has been used to deliver cigarettes to other provinces.



A scooter loaded with cigarette packets. MARCOS MORENO

Smuggling has come a long way since the days when old ladies tucked away a few cartons under their skirts, as shown in a photograph in the museum in La Línea. Gang leaders have an army of unemployed young men with no other means to earn a living at their disposal. Equipped with cellphones, they hang around the town's bars, waiting to be told that there's work today and that they will be earning between €10 and €15 per run. "Some nights three or four of them will move up to 100 cartons," says a police officer.

The Spanish tax authorities say around 120 million packets of cigarettes are imported each year into Gibraltar, which has a population of 30,000 people. The British Overseas Territory obtains 27 percent of its revenue from the business. “It is obviously impossible that these cigarettes are smoked, and that they are harboring smuggling,” says a tax officer.

A Brexit? Why Gibraltar says no thanks

A UK referendum on European Union membership has sparked concerns on the Rock

[Ana Carbajosa](#)

Gibraltar



Gibraltar's bustling Main Street. Marcos Moreno

Every morning, Monday to Friday, some 10,000 people cross over from Spain into Gibraltar to work in the British Overseas Territory's flourishing gambling and financial services industries. But if the UK votes in favor of an exit from the European Union, or even to substantially change the nature of its membership in a referendum slated for 2017, Gibraltar's economy would be hard hit.

The arrival today of a cruise ship with some 3,000 passengers aboard has made it virtually impossible to walk down Main Street on the Rock. Local shopkeepers cannot keep up with demand. They sell jewels, tobacco, and all kinds of products free of sales tax.

The referendum is an “existential threat” to Gibraltar, says its First Minister, Fabián Picardo

“Everything will depend on what happens with the border crossing and if tourists and Spanish workers continue to arrive,” says Suresh Basantini, who owns three stores. Up to seven million tourists pass through Gibraltar each year, and there are peak days when up to 30,000 arrive, doubling the local population.

But a Brexit would mean Gibraltar losing its privileged links to a market of half-a-billion people, which would be a blow for any country, and would sink the economy here, say locals. “It would be serious for Gibraltar if the UK decides to leave the single

market, but if it decides to leave the EU but remain in the single market, then that wouldn't be so bad," says Gibraltar's First Minister, Fabián Picardo from his office in 6 Covent Place. Picardo says that the referendum is an "existential threat" to Gibraltar, whose GDP grew by 17 percent this year and has virtually zero unemployment.

Gibraltar's tax advantages are threatened by skepticism in the UK about European integration

Financial services, insurance and online gambling, along with maritime crewing are, along with tourism, the pillars of the Gibraltarian economy. Being part of the EU and at the same time a financial center with notable tax advantages – no sales tax and just 10 percent company tax – are privileges Gibraltar wants to hold onto, but that are now threatened by growing skepticism in the UK about the benefits of greater European integration.



[ampliar foto](#) A duty free store in Gibraltar. Marcos Moreno

The financial services and insurance sectors would be the first victims of a Brexit. All kinds of investment funds are managed from here. There are also 63 insurance companies that take advantage of the territory's EU membership to provide services to other EU states, as well as competing with them. Some 15 percent of British car insurance comes from Gibraltar-based companies.

Some 15 percent of British car insurance comes from Gibraltar-based companies

"This is a society built on trade," says Edward Macquisten, the head of Gibraltar's Chamber of Commerce. "Gibraltar has always depended on foreign markets and this could have a very negative effect on our economy." For the moment, he explains, there

are companies that have created legal and financial teams to look at possible scenarios. “It isn’t clear on what basis a referendum would be held, or how long the process would take. This is creating uncertainty.” He also warns that the impact of a UK exit from the EU would be felt in the Spanish towns across the border where huge numbers of employed in Gibraltar-based companies work.

Nick Cruz is a well-known lawyer in Gibraltar and the non-executive director of Enterprise Holdings, an insurance company that operates mainly in Greece and France. He says that in the event of a Brexit, his company couldn’t operate in France unless it set up offices there. “Our business model is increasingly dependent on relationships with other European countries. The impact of an EU exit would be huge.”

Leaving the EU would greatly help those who want to create problems for us. It’s only EU rules that prevents Spain from closing the border”

Roulette, poker, bingo, the Champions League final, tennis... the internet has allowed Gibraltar to grow way beyond the six square kilometers it covers, two-thirds of which are occupied by the Rock itself, and that has seen its gambling industry enjoy a decade-long boom. Online gaming employs some 3,500 people here, half of whom are not from Gibraltar or Britain. The sector contributes around 20 percent of the territory’s GDP, and is shared out between 30 companies.

“They locate here for financial reasons,” explains Phill Brear, the Gibraltar government’s gaming commissioner. He says that exit from the single market would not directly impact on the sector, but would have repercussions, given that young people from all over Europe work here, entering and leaving each day: they might not be prepared to pay the political price of isolation. One of the companies operating in the online gaming sector is called 32 Red. Rows of workers wearing earpieces answer calls from people betting on Nadal to beat Tomic, or playing Black Jack.

Our business model is dependent on relationships with EU countries. The impact of an exit would be huge”

“A No vote would be very worrying for us,” says Ed Ware, the company’s director. “It is much easier for us to operate in European countries,” says the manager of another company that employs 200 workers specializing in online poker – which is very popular in Spain – who asks not to be named. Around half of its workforce live in Spain and cross into Gibraltar to work each day. Those who live in Gibraltar tend to eat and go out across the border, where prices are lower. The appeal of Gibraltar diminishes significantly if it becomes cut off from the rest of the EU.

And it’s not only Gibraltar’s economy that would be in trouble in the event of Brexit. Without the EU, the authorities here are fearful of a border controlled by Spain. “The treaties would no longer apply” says Picardo. “Leaving the EU would greatly help those who want to create problems for us. It’s only EU rules that prevents Spain from closing the border.”

So while London gears up for the 2017 referendum, Picardo is already looking into whether Gibraltar could join the Schengen zone. “Gibraltar wants more Europe, but a Europe that is reformed and better.”

EPEE8- 5th August 2015: "Gibraltar pledges to review ecological codes after EC opens enquiry"

Gibraltar pledges to review ecological codes after EC opens inquiry

Spain has incurred in more violations of European directive, UK territory claims

[Miguel González](#)

Madrid [5 AGO 2015 - 14:22 CEST](#)



Ampliar foto A Spanish customs surveillance speedboat patrols the Strait. Alfredo Cáliz

[Gibraltar](#) has pledged to conduct a full review by the end of the year of its plans for environmental conservation in the waters that surround the British Overseas Territory after the European Commission said it will investigate Britain and the local government for non-compliance of [the European Union's Habitats Directive](#).

The Habitats Directive is one of Europe's major conservation policies, and is aimed at protecting certain endangered sites – as well as more than 1,000 plant and animal species – in member countries. More than 200 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated across the continent.

The inquiry is more of a technical matter rather than a practical one”

The Gibraltar government confirmed that the review will take place in a statement issued after EL PAÍS [reported on Tuesday](#) that the EC had opened a preliminary inquiry against Britain and its territory to see if SACs designated by Brussels are being protected.

“The investigation against the UK is more of a technical matter rather than a practical one,” the Gibraltar government said.

“The main criticism made in respect of sites across the UK, including Gibraltar, is that the conservation objectives for EU protected species and habitats are too high level and broad, and therefore they do not effectively establish priorities for the maintenance or restoration, at a favorable conservation status, of EU protected habitats and species.”

For its part, Britain claimed the Rock of Gibraltar (200.5 hectares of land, comprising the entire territory) and the Southern Waters of Gibraltar (some 5,486 hectares of sea) as its two designated SACs.

Spain declared the Eastern Strait, which encompasses 23,641 hectares of water, covering the entire southern and eastern part of Gibraltar, as its SAC. Ownership of these waters is in dispute between the UK and Spain.

Brussels accepted these designations but demanded that measures be adopted to protect the marine ecosystems.

The Gibraltar government of Chief Minister Fabian Picardo added that it was confident that the EC would shelve the inquiry without having to file a complaint with the European Court of Justice.

Spain has prohibited “[bunkering](#)” – offshore refueling of ships in the open waters – in the area and introduced a series of penalties for environmental violations.

But in its statement, the Gibraltar government claims that Spain “is actually in a far worse position” with the EC, which has begun “infringement proceedings” against Madrid for failing to designate other SACs.

Gibraltar has filed a new complaint against Spain over an automated border control system for pedestrians
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On Tuesday, the Andalusian government designated nine SACs, which comprise of 37,352 hectares, including Alborán island. However, none of these new designations are located in the disputed waters surrounding Gibraltar, where the environmental protection measures adopted by the Spanish government have been accepted by the EC.

In a separate matter, Gibraltar has filed a new border complaint against Spain over an [automated border control system for pedestrians](#), which was introduced at the end of July.

“[These] e-gates are supposed to reduce the processing time for travelers and instead they have had the very opposite effect and led to increased waiting times,” Gibraltar said in [another statement](#).

[EPEE9- 27th November 2015: "Fabian Picardo re-elected as Gibraltar chief minister by a landslide"](#)

Fabian Picardo re-elected as Gibraltar chief minister by a landslide

Socialist incumbent gets 68% of the vote and thanks voters for their “tsunami of support”

[J. Jiménez Gálvez](#)

Madrid [27 NOV 2015 - 11:16 CET](#)



Gibraltar chief minister Fabian Picardo has won another four years in office. JON NAZCA REUTERS

The Socialist [Fabian Picardo](#) has been re-elected as Gibraltar’s chief minister for another four years.

The candidate for the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party-Liberal Party of Gibraltar alliance (GSLP-GLP) trumped the opposition with 68.03% of the vote in elections held on Thursday.

The ballot was marked by a low turnout of 70% out of 23,278 eligible voters, nearly a 12-point drop from 2011

Opposition leader Daniel Feetham, of the center-right Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD), attracted 31.37% support.

The winner talked about the landslide victory as “a tsunami of support” and said he would work on his campaign pledges with a “humble” attitude, the Efe news agency reported.

The ballot was marked by a low voter turnout of 70% out of 23,278 eligible voters, nearly a 12-point drop from 2011, when Picardo ended then-GSD leader Peter Caruana’s 15-year tenure as chief minister.

EPEE10- 16th May 2016: "UK minister on flight to Gibraltar denied access to Spanish airspace"

UK minister on flight to Gibraltar denied access to Spanish airspace

Diplomatic officials insist this is routine procedure and that the incident was not related to the visit

[Miguel González](#)

Havana [16 MAY 2016 - 14:03 CEST](#)



British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond. AFOLABI SOTUNDE REUTERS

Last week, an official flight carrying British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond to [Gibraltar](#) was diverted over Portuguese airspace after being denied permission to fly over Spanish territory.

Spanish diplomatic sources said that the decision to deny access was not in retaliation for the minister's visit. There are regulations in place so that no state flight in or out of Gibraltar can pass through Spanish airspace.

There are regulations in place so that no state flight in or out of the colony can pass through Spanish airspace

The measures do not apply to civil flights, but they do apply to those made by the British Air Force, which frequently performs exercises at the airport on the Rock of Gibraltar. The airport is located on an isthmus that Spain claims was never ceded in the 1784 Treaty of Utrecht that handed Gibraltar to Britain.

These restrictions also prevent aircraft and vessels departing from Gibraltar from entering a Spanish port or airport immediately after. “All NATO partners are aware of them, especially Hammond, who was formerly the Secretary of State for Defence,” added the same sources.



[Philip Hammond @PHammondMP](#)

I believe [#Brexit](#) is as big a threat to [#Gibraltar](#)'s sovereignty & prosperity as any of the traditional threats

Hammond's visit, the first to Gibraltar by a British Foreign Secretary since 2009, was [not well received by Madrid](#).

During his visit, primarily to [campaign against Brexit](#), Hammond said London would not begin any negotiations with Spain on the future of the overseas territory without the explicit approval of the Gibraltar government. He also reaffirmed the importance of establishing a [tripartite forum for regular dialogue](#) between Britain, Spain and Gibraltar.